

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING DWAIN LUCE, OF
MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS
SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Mr. Dwain Luce of Mobile, AL, for his courageous service during World War II. His heroic story, along with other Mobilians, is told in the Ken Burns' documentary series "The War."

After graduating from Auburn University with a reserve commission in 1938, Mr. Luce went to Mississippi to work for his family's cannery business. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he was recalled to active duty and reported to duty on January 15, 1942.

As a lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne Division's 320th Glider Field Artillery Battalion, he participated in the invasions of Sicily and later Italy. He was promoted to captain, and he and his unit were sent to England to train for the invasion of France. He landed his glider at Normandy on June 6, 1944, and survived 33 days of fighting there.

Several months later, his unit saw action again when they were dropped behind enemy lines into Holland as part of Operation Market Garden. They remained in Holland for 6 weeks battling both the Germans and the cold weather.

He and his unit also participated in the Battle of the Bulge where they anchored the northern flank of the American lines. On May 1, 1945, the 82nd Airborne took 144,000 German prisoners as they surrendered to Americans.

His story, along with other Mobilians, is told in the Ken Burns' documentary series "The War." Madam Speaker, the recognition of Dwain Luce in "The War" documentary is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Luce and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREATER SPOKANE SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council, GSSAC, as they celebrate 25 years of service to the Spokane community. In 1982, local policymakers and citizens joined together to take a

stand against the devastation of drugs and violence. Through their efforts, GSSAC now runs programs and collaborative efforts that are empowering our youth, focusing on prevention of substance abuse and violence and solving the problem of meth abuse in our community.

At the core of the GSSAC Prevention Center mission is a desire to equip those in need with the knowledge and skills to make positive choices in their life. They work to unite and support the community through fostering positive attitudes and behaviors. Most of all, they encourage, facilitate, initiate and assist all people, groups and organizations in finding solutions to alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse.

Over the 25 years that GSSAC has served the greater Spokane community, they have accomplished many milestones. The staff and volunteers of GSSAC give their time and resources through a variety of programs like the Spokane County Meth Action Team, Washington Drug-Free Youth and Prevention in Practice. They also help to disseminate information about drug abuse and prevention through their Information Clearing House.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff and volunteers of Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council on 25 years of influential service to our community. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending them for continuing on with their vision to make Spokane a safer place to live, and raising awareness on how we can prevent substance abuse in our communities.

LEGALIZING INTERNET GAMBLING WOULD HARM U.S. TRADE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, as I stated here a couple of months ago, I believe very strongly that whatever our policy is on other types of gambling, we need to maintain a firm line against any form of sports gambling. Gambling on sports events undermines the integrity of American athletics. It can create corruption or the appearance of corruption, and it taints the image of sports as wholesome, family-friendly entertainment.

I also stated that I opposed legalization of online sports gambling in H.R. 2046. It is not enough to allow sports associations to say "not on my game" if Congress is sending the message to the public that sports gambling is fine. If we are going to consider any loosening of laws against online gambling, we need to say "not on sports, period."

But yesterday I received a letter from Stuart Eizenstat, a very well-respected trade expert who was formerly U.S. Ambassador to the European Union and Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, writing on behalf of the National Football League. Ambas-

sador Eizenstat's letter informs me that, under the present circumstances, even "not on sports, period" could leave the NFL and other great American athletic institutions vulnerable to assault by the offshore gambling interests who want to make money off the popularity of these games.

According to Ambassador Eizenstat's letter, a law that legalizes most online gambling but includes limited exceptions, such as a sports gambling exception, will be vulnerable to attack in the World Trade Organization. If the WTO rules against the U.S. law, the U.S. would have to choose between eliminating the exception—feeding our treasured sports to the gambling wolves—or paying billions in compensation to our trading partners. I, for one, think we should avoid having to decide which of these is the lesser of two evils if we can.

It appears that the U.S. does have a way out, by withdrawing any commitments to free trade in gambling. The U.S. Trade Representative is currently in the middle of negotiating this withdrawal. But this requires compensation too, for taking away market access from our trading partners. How much compensation? Not much at all, given that almost all Internet gambling is illegal. But if we make it legal, even if sports gambling is excluded, then there is a big legal market for which we will owe compensation.

As Ambassador Eizenstat says, "withdrawal negotiations should be brought to a conclusion before Congress passes any new gambling legislation." In the interest of protecting American athletics, I plan to take this advice to heart.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to enter Ambassador Eizenstat's letter into the RECORD.

COVINGTON & BURLING, LLP,

Washington, DC, September 24th, 2007.

Hon. EDOLPHUS TOWNS,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE TOWNS: I am writing on behalf of the National Football League, NFL, to urge you to oppose H.R. 2046, the "Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act," which would legalize Internet gambling. Along with all other major U.S. professional and amateur sports associations, the NFL is very concerned about protecting the integrity of American athletics from the adverse effects of sports gambling. As the recent National Basketball Association referee scandal shows, this is a very real concern. From a trade perspective, H.R. 2046 is fundamentally flawed. This bill, and any other legislation legalizing Internet gambling, also may have the unintended consequence of giving foreign service suppliers greater access to the U.S. market in a range of services sectors.

H.R. 2046 reverses 50 years of U.S. public policy by endorsing and legalizing sports betting, and it vastly expands access to all forms of gambling. Although the bill allows sports leagues and states to opt out of this gambling legalization scheme, these exceptions may be successfully challenged in the World Trade Organization, WTO, under existing trade rules. While the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services permits a

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

complete gambling prohibition that is "necessary to protect public morals," a patchwork approach that legalizes most gambling and includes limited opt outs may be difficult to defend. Indeed, Antigua's WTO counsel, emboldened by Antigua's successful challenge to current U.S. laws that prohibit gambling, already has stated his belief that the opt out provisions in H.R. 2046 are inconsistent with the United States' WTO commitments. Given Antigua's past success in challenging U.S. anti-gambling statutes in the WTO and Antigua's current demands for \$3.4 billion in compensation, the stakes are high. Passage of H.R. 2046 could well lead to further WTO litigation.

After losing the gambling dispute with Antigua, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) took the important step last May of notifying the WTO of its intent to modify its WTO commitments to explicitly exclude gambling and betting services. The USTR is now in the process of negotiating with eight WTO countries who claim that they are adversely affected by this withdrawal. These withdrawal negotiations should be brought to a conclusion before Congress passes any new gambling legislation. This is especially so since passage of H.R. 2046 would, for the first time, create a legal American market for Internet gambling, significantly complicating ongoing negotiations and making it much more costly to withdraw the U.S. commitment on gambling services.

Specifically, as part of the withdrawal negotiations, the United States has to make "compensatory adjustments," i.e., further open the U.S. services market to foreign suppliers to compensate for the withdrawal of the gambling services commitment. Currently, given that remote gambling services are largely illegal in the United States, the access that foreigners will get to the U.S. market as a result of the gambling commitment withdrawal is minimal. Passage of H.R. 2046 will create a large, legal gambling market in the United States. Foreigners will then be able to demand far greater access to the U.S. market in the ongoing withdrawal negotiations. Greater market access demands could conceivably impact the U.S. financial services sector, the telecommunications sector, and others.

The negative impact of H.R. 2046 on U.S. industries and U.S. trade negotiations could be significant. This bill—and, in fact, any bill that authorizes Internet gambling of any kind—will greatly complicate the USTR's efforts to withdraw the United States' gambling commitment by providing foreign countries with leverage to demand greater access to the U.S. services market. Furthermore, under the current WTO rules, the bill's opt out provisions for sports leagues and states could very likely be challenged in the WTO, potentially leading to a situation where foreign gambling companies could provide gambling services to Americans over the objections of the NFL, other sports leagues, and state governments. For all of these reasons, I urge you to oppose H.R. 2046 and any other proposals to legalize Internet gambling in the United States.

Sincerely,

STUART E. EIZENSTAT.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization bill. At a time when there are over 46 million uninsured individuals in this country, and over 5 million uninsured people in Texas alone, it is time that Congress stepped up and improved access to healthcare for children—our most vulnerable population. This legislation will go a long way in providing care to children of low-income families, some of our most disadvantaged individuals.

Without this important legislation, SCHIP will expire at the end of the month. Since its inception ten years ago, SCHIP has been a highly successful program. There are currently 6.6 million children enrolled in SCHIP, but millions more are eligible for the program and continue to lack health insurance. Approximately two-thirds of uninsured children are eligible for SCHIP or Medicaid and it is our responsibility to ensure that these children receive health benefits. Without healthcare coverage under SCHIP many children of the working poor are forced to replace regular visits to primary care physicians with costly trips to the emergency room.

Today's expansion will provide states with the resources to start covering more of these eligible children. This legislation will expand the Children's Health Insurance Program by \$35 billion over the next 5 years, allowing states to cover an estimated 3.8 million more children. In Texas alone, an additional 440,000 children will receive coverage. Texas has the unpleasant distinction of being the state with the most uninsured residents. With 5 million uninsured Texans, providing healthcare coverage for another half million children is a critical first step for the state of Texas.

I am proud to support this important SCHIP expansion that will improve healthcare access for children in Texas and across the Nation.

COMMENDING WILLIE RUSHTON, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Mr. Willie Rushton of Mobile, Alabama, for his courageous service during World War II. His heroic story, along with other Mobilians, is told in the Ken Burns' documentary series "The War."

Born in Nadawah, Alabama, Mr. Rushton grew up on a saw mill farm in Atmore. After graduating from high school, he moved to Mobile to work at the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant. He was drafted in the spring of 1943, just a year after getting married.

He signed on with the Marines and was shipped to the Pacific in July 1943. His son

was born just 1 month later, a son he would not see for more than 2 years. Assigned to the 11th Depot Company, he served in the South Pacific from July 1943 until October 1944. He and his unit—a unit that sustained the highest casualty rate of any black Marine unit—took part in the invasion of Peleliu along with the 1st Marine Division.

Mr. Rushton himself was wounded in the leg by shrapnel from a mortar round while on the island. When he returned to Mobile following his discharge in November 1945, he was unable to return to his job at Coca-Cola. He worked at Sears, Brookley Field, and the United States Postal Service, where he stayed for 43 years.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Mr. Willie Rushton in "The War" documentary is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Rushton and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF BURT SALTZMAN, CEO OF DAVE'S SUPERMARKETS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Burt Saltzman, CEO of Dave's Supermarkets, whose entire career has focused on serving the community. His kind and charitable demeanor has made him a well-known and widely embraced individual amongst the citizens of Cleveland, the supermarket employees, vendors, and community organizations alike.

Dave's Supermarket is named after Mr. Saltzman's father and employs over 1,500 associates. This year, the store celebrates 75 years of providing the people of the neighborhood with quality groceries at affordable prices, as well as an unmatched kind of customer service. Mr. Saltzman is one of few CEOs who will work alongside employees and help customers one-on-one.

Not only does he take time to show he cares for Dave's associates, Mr. Saltzman is also very active in the community. He supplies food to soup kitchens, hunger centers, shelters, a day care, and supports the Cleveland Food Bank as well as Mental Health Services, Inc. Mr. Saltzman's charitable efforts have not gone unrecognized; he is in the Grocer's Hall of Fame and has received an "Others" award from the Salvation Army. The "Others" award is given in recognition of those who benefit the Salvation Army and/or the community as a whole.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in thanking and honoring Mr. Burt Saltzman for his enduring commitment to Northeast Ohio. His devotion and care are the epitome of civic engagement and community pride.

TMA, ABSTINENCE EDUCATION,
AND QI PROGRAMS EXTENSION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3668, but with a great sense of frustration. H.R. 3668 temporarily extends a number of expiring health programs which low-income individuals depend on. Unfortunately, these effective, important programs are held hostage through their attachment to the Title V Abstinence Education program, a program which is ineffective, which prizes ideology over science, and which harms our children through the provision of medically inaccurate information.

Mr. Speaker, teen pregnancy is a serious issue in this country. In the United States, three in ten girls become pregnant by age 20—nearly double the teen pregnancy rate in Great Britain, four times the rate in France and Germany, and nearly ten times the rate in Japan. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy estimates that teen pregnancies impose an additional \$9.1 billion in societal costs every year in the United States—and this is after teen pregnancy and birth rates declined by one-third in the past decade.

It should come as no great surprise that the costs of teen pregnancy are so high—pregnant teenagers are substantially less likely than their peers to finish high school, attend college, or go on to pursue professional careers. Pregnant teenagers are less likely to obtain prenatal care, exposing their babies to an increased risk of low birth weight and of being born prematurely. At the age of 2, they have significantly lower cognitive test scores. And because the majority of children from teen pregnancies are born to unmarried women, they are more likely to be poor, drop out of high school, and have poor grades and school attendance records. This is, of course, to say nothing of abortion—which is still a major consequence of teen and unintended pregnancy.

Teen pregnancy is a serious problem, and it demands a serious solution. Of course we should want to delay the onset of sexual activity in our children—what parent of a teenager wouldn't want that? But we cannot let that desire blind us to the very real fact that teenagers, despite our best intentions, will and do have sex, and that our wanting them not to does not absolve us of our obligation to protect them and keep them safe. Pretending that sexual activity among teenagers does not exist will not reduce the number of new sexually transmitted infections, it will not reduce the number of teenage girls who become pregnant, and it will not reduce the number of abortions performed every year.

We have both a practical and a moral obligation to ensure that American teenagers and their families have the resources and the knowledge to make the right decisions about how to prevent teen pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted infections. When the House passed the CHAMP Act in August, the bill included a reauthorization of the Title V Abstinence Education program that

would have ensured that when we teach children about the importance of abstaining from sexual activity, we do it in a way that is age-appropriate, medically accurate and science-based, and that we allow States the flexibility they need to respond to conditions in their schools in an appropriate way.

I commend Chairman DINGELL for including these improvements in the CHAMP Act, and I express my sincerest hope and conviction that any long-term reauthorization of Title V that passes this House this year will include similar language. Just this year, reports by the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Mathematical Policy Research and the Government Accountability Office indicate that many of the programs funded through Title V contain staggering medical inaccuracies, and that students actually understand less about sexually transmitted diseases after having completed the programs than they did when they began. We have spent \$1.25 billion on these programs since Fiscal Year 2001, paying for teachers to tell children that “relying on condoms is like playing Russian Roulette,” and that “AIDS can be transmitted through skin-to-skin contact.” I believe we can and must do better, and I will continue to fight for responsible, science-based programs that will meaningfully protect our children.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF MR. ALVIN BROOKS**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today in recognition of the achievements of Mr. Alvin Brooks, a pioneer for civil and human rights, and a resident of the Fifth District of Missouri which I am honored to represent. This week, Mr. Brooks will be inducted into the Missouri Walk of Fame during a reception as part of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, an event held to honor the achievements of African-Americans who have made significant contributions to Missouri.

As a former Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, I am well aware of the contributions Al has made to the landscape of Kansas City. Mr. Alvin Brooks' experience in City government spans over a quarter century. Alvin Brooks is the former Mayor Pro Tem and 6th District At-Large City Councilperson for the City of Kansas City, Missouri. He was first elected in 1999 and re-elected in 2003. After his first election, Brooks was appointed as Mayor Pro Tem by Mayor Kay Barnes. In addition to serving as Mayor Pro Tem, Brooks chaired the Public Safety Committee, the Police Capital Improvements Oversight Committee, the Police Site Selection Committee, and was vice-chair of the Aviation Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee. Brooks lost a bid for Mayor of Kansas City this past spring by a mere 851 votes.

While Kansas City's Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman Brooks served as a member of numerous committees and perhaps most visible through his work as President of the Ad Hoc Group Against Crime, which he founded in 1977. The Ad Hoc Group Against Crime is a broad-based, grass roots community organiza-

tion, which appointed him President/CEO of Ad Hoc in April of 1991. “I get my strength from my spirituality—from being spiritual and believing that one lightens his or her burden by helping people lighten their burden. People enter our space and you are energized by them,” said Mr. Brooks.

Brooks learned his philosophy on the street. As Kansas City police officer from 1954 to 1964, he held the rank of detective and worked with runaways and gang members. Shortly after the civil disorder of 1968, he organized the city's Human Relations Department and served as its first director until 1984. He was the first African-American to serve as a department head for the City of Kansas City, Mo. In 1999, he was first elected to serve as the Sixth District at-Large Councilman in 1999 and re-elected in 2003. Brooks was appointed as Mayor Pro Tem by Mayor Kay Barnes. In addition, to serving as Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman Brooks was a member of the Legislative, Rules, and Ethics Committee and the Aviation Committees. His dedication to Kansas City includes serving as an Assistant City Manager for 7 years.

Presently, Mr. Brooks is a consultant to many business executives in the area of diversity, minority and women matters. He has also been a motivational speaker and lecturer for various governmental agencies, colleges and universities, and the private sector. He has conducted hundreds of seminars and workshops on the subject of cultural/racial diversity, religious tolerance and civil rights. He has taught classes and conducted lectures and workshops on a multitude of subjects, including the criminal justice system, crime and violence prevention, community involvement and police-community relations. He is also a certified mediator, and has lobbied at the local, state and federal levels.

In 1989, Brooks received national attention from President George H.W. Bush in 1989 as he was recognized as one of “America's 1,000 points of light,” and was subsequently appointed to a 3-year term on the President's National Drug Advisory Council. This is but one of the many accolades Al has received over the years. The recipient of four honorary doctorate degrees from colleges and universities in metropolitan Kansas City and surrounding areas, Brooks has also received too numerous other accolades to mention. In all of his activities, he demonstrates his dedication and commitment to the greater good of others.

Al lives in South Kansas City, Missouri with his wife Carol, to whom he has been married for 57 years. Together they have raised six children—one son (deceased), and five daughters. They also have 17 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Throughout his life, he has put his principles to practice, and the effects of his efforts have brought about a more diverse and concerned citizenry throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. For these reasons and more, it is indeed an honor and privilege to recognize Mr. Alvin Brooks at the Missouri Walk of Fame reception, hosted by myself and fellow Missourian, U.S. Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY of St. Louis.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Alvin Brooks, not just to the Kansas City community, but to the entire country at large. He is a true role model, a person who has been dedicated with

improving the condition of his fellow man for nearly 50 years.

POPCORN WORKERS LUNG DISEASE PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2693) to direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a standard regulating worker exposure to diacetyl:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Prevention Act.

Bronchiolitis obliterans frequently referred to as popcorn lung is a serious and debilitating lung disease, which has resulted in severe illness and even death of workers in popcorn and flavor production. This irreversible disease has been linked with exposure to the artificial butter chemical, diacetyl. However, despite this knowledge, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has not issued a single regulation for diacetyl. In fact, OSHA has not issued a single worker safety standard in the last 7 years, except for one ordered by a court.

This legislation requires OSHA to issue an emergency standard within 90 days to minimize worker exposure to diacetyl in popcorn and flavorings manufacturing plants. It also requires OSHA to develop a permanent and more comprehensive standard within the next 2 years to regulate diacetyl exposure in all workplaces.

The Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Prevention Act is supported by a wide range of organizations including the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association, the AFL-CIO, the American Society of Safety Engineers, and the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

All workers have the right to a safe and healthy workplace. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 2693.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STATE VIDEO TAX FAIRNESS ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the State Video Tax Fairness Act of 2007. This legislation will ensure that video competition remains robust, states retain the ability to raise revenue through sales taxes, and, most importantly, consumers are not harmed.

Discriminatory sales taxes harm consumers. It is well-established that robust competition for substitutable products generally benefits consumers by yielding lower prices and greater quality.

A number of states, however, have enacted what may be deemed to be discriminatory sales taxes on DBS service, with no burden or a lesser burden placed on cable subscribers,

and more states are threatening to do so. These states impose a higher sales tax on nationally distributed DBS subscribers than they do on cable or other types of video providers.

The legislation that I am introducing today will ensure fair taxation to all consumers, and I hope to conduct hearings and request a GAO study of this issue.

The State Video Tax Fairness Act of 2007 would prohibit discriminatory taxes against any pay-TV service and apply the non-discrimination principle to taxes on both services and equipment.

State revenues would not be impacted. The Act would allow states to tax pay-TV providers or their subscribers, provided that such taxes are applied equally to all such services, including cable and DBS.

Consumers Union and Media Access Project, in separate letters submitted to this record, point out that artificial cost increases to the consumer imposed on one category of service provider can undermine the consumer benefits of competition. A discriminatory sales tax placed on one type of provider but not another is such an artificial cost.

National Taxpayers Union, in a letter submitted to this record, points out that, at the very least state and local governments should not discriminate among products or services by disadvantaging one with heavier taxes. Discriminatory sales taxes against DBS subscribers set a dangerous precedent for picking and choosing winners and losers in a marketplace based on who receives the most favorable sales tax treatment, rather than who provides the best value to consumers.

I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

COMMENDING SIDNEY PHILLIPS, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Dr. Sidney Phillips of Mobile, Alabama, for his courageous service during World War II. At just 17 years of age when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, young Sidney Phillips signed up for the Marines.

After training, Pvt. Phillips was assigned to H Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and taught to operate the 81 mm mortar. He went overseas in the spring of 1942 first to New Zealand, and then to the Solomon Islands that August where he participated in the landings on Guadalcanal. He survived four months of combat on the island and fought in many battles, including the Battle of the Tenaru.

At the end of 1943, he was sent to New Guinea for training and participated in the invasion of Cape Gloucester, on the western tip of New Britain. In 1944, he was sent back to the United States for the V-12 naval officer training program. He was still in training when the war ended, and was able to return to Mobile.

His story is told in the Ken Burns' documentary series "The War." He is now a retired physician living in Theodore. In 1997, Dr. Phil-

lips penned his war memoir entitled, "You'll Be Sor-reel!"

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Dr. Sidney Phillips in "The War" documentary is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Dr. Phillips and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF HOOPER, WA

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the town of Hooper, WA, as they celebrate their 125th anniversary this year. This town has come a long way since four McGregor brothers, John, Archie, Peter and Alec, established the McGregor Land & Livestock Company in Hooper over a century ago. Hooper joins a long list of small communities in Washington State that have found a way to thrive and succeed over the years through the trials and tribulations of an ever changing agriculture industry.

Through the efforts of the community, Hooper has come to symbolize the importance of working together to restore and preserve a rich history. The citizen's commitment to revitalizing the buildings and grounds of the area is outstanding. Seeing refurbished early 20th century buildings like the Hooper Hotel, Hooper Store, and U.S. Post Office conjures memories of simpler times in Washington State's history when rough herdsman, seasonal workers, and aspiring immigrant farmers would come out west in search of the American Dream.

The legacy of these brave individuals will echo for centuries. Due to the hard work and diligence in breaking out land and experimenting with agriculture methods in this part of the country, we now enjoy one of the most successful agriculture industries in the nation. More than 120 families in Whitman County alone have farmed and ranched here for a century or more. Whitman County is the leading wheat producing county in the United States; the Hooper area contributes greatly to this impressive statistic.

What a thrill it must have been to enjoy the company of nearly 400 past and present residents of Hooper during their celebration in August. I am certain we will all be in awe as the beautiful restoration continues in Hooper. This town has been a diamond in the rough for Whitman County since 1882.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the town of Hooper and people who have made it such a wonderful part of Washington State history over the years. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the community of Hooper, WA as they celebrate 125 years together.

OPERATION SILENCE: SHIFTING BLAME ON AIR INDIA BOMBING

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on August 4, the Indian newspaper and website Tehelka, which has done significant work exposing corruption in India, published a report on the 1985 Air India bombing, which was the worst terrorist incident involving aircraft until September 11, 2001. In the report, they produce new evidence that the Indian Government was responsible for the attack, which killed 329 innocent people.

The new report discusses the interrogation of the late Babbar Khalsa leader Talwinder Singh Parmar, who was considered by the Indians to be one of the masterminds of the attack. It should be noted that Babbar Khalsa was and is heavily infiltrated by the Indian Government and has been pretty much under its control.

In his interrogation, Parmar points the finger of responsibility straight at the Indian Government. The documents, obtained from the Punjab Human Rights Organization, PHRO, which conducted a 7-year investigation, were supposed to have been destroyed by the interrogating officer, but he secretly kept them all this time.

Parmar identifies Lakhbir Singh Rode as a mastermind of the bombing. Rode is head of the International Sikh Youth Federation. According to PHRO, Rode is an agent of the Indian Government. Sarbjit Singh, chief investigator for the PHRO, reports that Parmar was ordered killed to cover up Rode's involvement.

Parmar was supposed to have been killed in an encounter with police, but the PHRO pointed out that he had been in police custody for some time at the time he was killed. PHRO reports that there is "conclusive evidence" that Parmar was killed in police custody.

With this information coming on top of the mountain of evidence produced by Zuhair Kashmeri and Brian McAndrew in their book *Soft Target* and the report by former Member of Parliament David Kilgour in his book *Betrayed: The Spy Canada Abandoned*, in which he reports that a Canadian-Polish double agent was approached by representatives of the Indian Government asking him to become involved in a second bombing because "the first one worked so well," there can be no doubt that the Indian Government itself is the real culprit behind this act of terrorism. The links are just too strong.

State terrorism is unacceptable whether it is carried out by the Taliban in Afghanistan, by Mr. Ahmadinejad in Iran, by some tinhorn dictator in Latin America, or by the "world's largest democracy." We cannot let this stand. The time has come to stop our aid to India, end our trade, and speak out strongly for self-determination, the cornerstone of democracy, throughout South Asia. Only then will these kinds of abuses, designed to set up one ethnic or religious group as "terrorists" so they can be killed, come to an end.

I request the permission of the House to place the Tehelka article in the RECORD for the information of my colleagues and the public.

KANISHKA TRAGEDY—OPERATION SILENCE (By Vikram Jit Singh)

Fifteen years after Babbar Khalsa International leader Talwinder Singh Parmar, one of the two alleged masterminds of the mid-air bombing of Air India's Kanishka airplane, was shown as having being killed in an encounter in Punjab, retired Punjab Police DSP Harmail Singh Chandi, who nabbed Parmar from Jammu in September 1992 and interrogated him for five days before he was killed along with five others, has come forward with the claim that Parmar was killed in police custody on the orders of senior police officers, who also asked his confession record to be destroyed. In his confession, Parmar had named Lakhbir Singh Brar "Rode", nephew of the late Bhindranwale and head of the banned International Sikh Youth Federation, as the mastermind of the bombing. Rode, who is now said to be holed up in Lahore, has never figured in the investigations of either the CBI or the Canadian authorities.

Chandi has brought forward the entire record of Parmar's confession, including audio tapes and statements, before the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the John Major Commission of Inquiry that is reinvestigating the June 23, 1985 blast that claimed 331 lives off the Irish coast. Chandi had been ordered by senior officers to destroy the records but he retained them secretly. The record was brought before the Major Commission due to seven-year-long investigations by the Punjab Human Rights Organisation (PHRO), a Chandigarh-based ngo that conducted interviews of Parmar's associates in India and Canada and pieced together a comprehensive report. The PHRO's Principal Investigator Sarbjit Singh and lawyer Rajvinder Singh Bains flew to Canada along with Harmail in June and produced their findings before the Commission's counsels.

A Canadian citizen, Parmar was shown as having been killed in an exchange of fire between police and six militants in the wee hours of October 15, 1992, near village Kang Arian in Phillaur sub-division. However, evidence brought forward by Harmail (who was then DSP, Phillaur) shows that Parmar was interrogated between October 9 and 14 by senior police officers, where he revealed that the blasts were instigated by Lakhbir Singh Brar Rode.

Parmar's confession reads: "Around May 1985, a functionary of the International Sikh Youth Federation came to me and introduced himself as Lakhbir Singh and asked me for help in conducting some violent activities to express the resentment of the Sikhs. I told him to come after a few days so that I could arrange for dynamite and battery etc. He told me that he would first like to see a trial of the blast . . . After about four days, Lakhbir Singh and another youth, Inderjit Singh Reyat, both came to me. We went into the jungle (of British Columbia). There we joined a dynamite stick with a battery and triggered off a blast. Lakhbir and Inderjit, even at that time, had in their minds a plan to blast an aeroplane. I was not too keen on this plan but agreed to arrange for the dynamite sticks. Inderjit wanted to use for this purpose a transistor fitted with a battery . . . That very day, they took dynamite sticks from me and left.

"Then Lakhbir Singh, Inderjit Singh and their accomplice, Manjit Singh, made a plan to plant bombs in an Air India (AI) plane leaving from Toronto via London for Delhi and another flight that was to leave Tokyo for Bangkok. Lakhbir Singh got the seat booking done from Vancouver to Tokyo and then onwards to Bangkok, while Manjit Singh got it done from Vancouver to To-

ronto and then from Toronto to Delhi. Inderjit prepared the bags for the flights, which were loaded with dynamite bombs fitted with a battery and transistor. They decided that the suitcases will be booked but they themselves will not travel by the same flights although they will take the boarding passes. After preparing these bombs, the plan was ready for execution by June 21 or 22, 1985. However, the bomb to be kept in the flight from Tokyo to Delhi via Bangkok exploded at the Narita airport on the conveyor belt. The second suitcase that was loaded on the Toronto-Delhi ai flight exploded in the air."

Sarbjit said the PHRO's probe has shown that Parmar was killed to hide the name of Lakhbir, who was an Indian agent. "After the Khalistan movement gained in sympathy in the West, especially in Canada, after the 1984 Blue Star operation and the killing of Sikhs in Delhi, a plot was hatched to discredit the Sikh movement. Parmar was roped in by Lakhbir at the behest of his masters. The Punjab Police got orders to finish off Parmar as he knew too much about the main perpetrators. On the day of the Kanishka blast, an explosion took place at Japan's Narita airport, where two Japanese baggage handlers were killed. The plot was to trigger blasts when the two aircraft had de-embarked their passengers but the 1 hour 40 minute delay in Kanishka's takeoff led to the bomb exploding mid-air," Sarbjit said.

What gives credence to Sarbjit's charge is the Source Report (in Tehelka's possession) prepared by the Jalandhar Police soon after Parmar was killed. Based on information provided by Parmar—though not attributing it to his interrogation—the report makes no reference to Lakhbir. Interestingly, Lakhbir, accused in many acts of terrorist violence, is wanted by the Indian Government in only a minor case registered in Moga, Punjab. The Red Corner Interpol notice, A-23/1-1997, put out by the CBI against Lakhbir states: "OFFENCES: House breaking, theft, damage by fire."

The PHRO told Canadian authorities that conclusive evidence existed of Parmar being killed in police custody and not in the "encounter" shown in FIR No 105 registered at Phillaur police station on October 15, 1992. The PHRO report, AI Flight 182 Case, states "On October 14, 1992, a high-level decision was conveyed to the police that Parmar had to be killed . . . The contradiction in the FIR and post-mortem report (PMR) is too obvious. As per the FIR, Parmar was killed by AK-47 fire by SSP Satish K Sharma from a rooftop. The PMR shows the line of fire of the three bullets is different. It cannot be if one person is firing from a fixed position. The PMR is very sketchy and no chemical analysis was done. Moreover, the time of death is between 12am and 2am according to the PMR, whereas the FIR records the time of death at 5.30am." Then Jalandhar SSP and now IGP, Satish K Sharma, denied the charge. "It was a clean encounter. The RCMP is bringing this up because they botched their investigations and failed to get convictions," he said.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF SUL ROSS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today on the 169th anniversary of his birth, I would like to recognize a Texas hero, Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross. He was a Texas Ranger,

Civil War general, and 2-term Governor. He served and honored Texas with dedication and in doing so, he helped mold the State into what it is today.

Sul Ross was dedicated to expanding the Texas economy and improving the State's education. His tax reforms and anti-trust legislation led to one of the greatest surpluses in State history. Ross was also the first to create a tax system to pay for State public schools, which is the same system we presently employ.

After serving as Governor, Ross took over the failing Texas A&M and revolutionized the institution. Today, the university is on the leading edge of agricultural science, education and research, and its students still look to their beloved former president as an academic lucky charm.

Upon his death in 1898, the legislature honored Ross by appropriating money for a college in his honor. Sul Ross State University opened for classes in 1920 and has become an example of exceptional higher education in west Texas.

Ross' education legacy has been recognized across Texas and he has had several primary and secondary schools named in his honor. This includes Sul Ross Middle School in the award winning Northside School District in San Antonio, TX.

Influential and inspirational citizens, such as Sul Ross, should be remembered by all Americans. He is a reminder of how one person can affect change and make better their community and their State. For his achievements, I recognize Sul Ross on this day.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST. HERMAN'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Herman's House of Hospitality, on the occasion of their 30th anniversary, and to celebrate their dedication to serving Cleveland's most vulnerable citizens.

Since its founding on September 27, 2007, St. Herman's has been an oasis for the homeless of Cleveland, providing warm meals, clothing, shelter, and a welcoming and compassionate environment. As the homeless among us get pushed to shadows of our society, St. Herman's has reached out to them, heeding the Gospel imperative to clothe the naked and feed the hungry.

St. Herman's, a monastery of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, provides shelter for hundreds of men a year and feeds thousands of people. When they cannot provide the services that their guests need, they direct them to people who can meet their needs.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating St. Herman's House of Hospitality. For 30 years St. Herman's has reaffirmed the basic dignity of all human beings in their service to the homeless. May we all follow St. Herman's example in our treatment of the most vulnerable citizens in our midst.

COMMENDING GLENN FRAZIER, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Mr. Glenn Frazier of Mobile, AL, for his courageous service during World War II. At just 17 years of age, Mr. Frazier signed up to join the peacetime Army in the summer of 1941.

Volunteering to serve in the Philippines, where he would be a world away from the battle raging in Europe, he was assigned to the 75th Ordinance Depot and Supply Company. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the Philippines, Corporal Frazier and thousands of American and Filipino troops were forced to retreat to the Bataan Peninsula. In April, 1942, he was one of 78,000 American and Filipino troops captured and forced to march to a prison camp more than 60 miles away without food or water. Thousands of the prisoners died during the week-long march that became known as the Bataan Death March.

After surviving months of horrific conditions at Camp O'Donnell, Corporal Frazier was shipped to Japan and spent nearly 3 years in various prison camps. The army presumed him to be dead in the summer of 1944, and confirmed him to be dead in 1945. However, after the second atomic bomb was dropped, his prison camp was abandoned by the guards, and Corporal Frazier and his fellow POWs escaped to freedom.

His story, along with other Mobilians, is told in the Ken Burns' documentary series "The War." Madam Speaker, the recognition of Mr. Glenn Frazier in "The War" documentary is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Frazier and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR IRAQ CONTRACTORS

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, over the past four years, our troops in Iraq have been supplanted by another army of equal size—the contracting force. There are as many private contractors in Iraq as U.S. soldiers on the ground.

Outsourcing our military is cause for concern in and of itself. But the recent uncovering of indiscriminate hostility toward Iraqi civilians and unprovoked killings by security contractors in Iraq is a siren's warning that demands immediate attention.

Blackwater—a company that has reaped over \$110 million since January 2006 in U.S. contracts—offers the most egregious example of what is wrong with our occupation of Iraq.

Last week, Blackwater security protecting State Department officials, opened fire in a

Baghdad neighborhood. In what appears to be an unprovoked incident, Blackwater guards killed at least 11 innocent Iraqi civilians and wounded 12 others.

But because of a decree delivered in 2004 by former Ambassador Paul Bremer—on his last day on the job—these contractors are granted immunity from Iraqi law and will likely face no charges at home.

The lack of accountability is anathema to our fundamental principle of justice and exemplifies why the occupation of Iraq is a failure.

Congress must not be silent lest we become complicit in these acts. The longer we stay in Iraq under the terms of the current occupation the more these incidents which undermine our international credibility will occur.

COMMEMORATING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF KANSAS CITY'S KCUR RADIO STATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition and to commemorate one of Kansas City's premier radio stations 89.3 FM, KCUR Radio. Based at and operating from the University of Missouri—Kansas City campus, KCUR is celebrating its golden anniversary on October 21, 1957. I know that Congressman DENNIS MOORE of Kansas joins me in my well-wishes for KCUR as it has served the whole Kansas City community, on both sides of the state line 50 years of continuous service.

At home, KCUR entertains, enlightens, and informs the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area. But more than that, quite simply, this radio station enhances the quality of life for Kansas Citians and all listeners by broadcasting over radio waves and the internet non-commercial radio programming 24 hours a day, including 20 hours of news each week-day, through its charter membership as a National Public Radio station. Continually, 89.3 FM is recognized for groundbreaking features and extensive coverage of politics, the arts, health, and minority matters. KCUR's original broadcasts and programs have captured the hearts and minds of listeners and learners nationwide.

This heartland station has grown from a station with two full-time employees and a signal range of four miles, to 23 full-time broadcast professionals and 17 part-time employees with a signal reaching a 90-mile radius covering northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. Today, KCUR is broadcasting with a power of 100,000 watts to over 150,000 listeners all due largely through the efforts of its 200 tireless volunteers.

KCUR began broadcasting October 21, 1957 from the third floor of Scofield Hall with a signal range of 4 miles, 2 full-time employees and a budget of \$15,000 from the University. It was the first university licensed educational FM station in Missouri and the second FM in Kansas City.

In the Spring of 1956, C.J. Stevens, then Director of Radio and TV at the University of Kansas City, submitted a budget request to establish and operate an educational FM broadcast station, and he was turned down.

However, Stevens and Sam Scott decided to raise money outside the university. A modest fundraising campaign was undertaken and a separate FM fund was established. KCUR-FM was in its conception and continues to be a community station.

In 1970, KCUR was awarded a grant of \$7,500 from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for Community Service. National Public Radio broadcasts began the next year with KCUR as a charter member.

After Sam Scott retired in 1986, the station was without a General Manager for a year while Jim Costin, UMKC Associate Vice Chancellor oversaw the station. Patricia Cahill, a former KCUR reporter in the early 1970s, was hired in 1987 as General Manager, and she holds the position today.

In the 1960s, the Kansas City Times stated, "In the community, (KCUR) it is a source of education, culture and pleasure." And those words still ring true today. I certainly know this firsthand. It is my radio station of choice, and this fact was never so clear, as well as my bias towards it, as when I had my daily radio show, *Under the Clock*, broadcast on its airwaves. Innovative programs, local heavy weights, and our community are their programming.

Madam Speaker, I rise today with the gentleman from Kansas, Congressman DENNIS MOORE, and we are proud to share with you and the membership of this House our heartfelt congratulations and appreciation for KCUR's many outstanding benefits to our community, as we approach the 50th anniversary of this treasure in our community.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act to provide health care coverage for an additional 3.8 million children.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) plays an important role in providing quality, cost-effective health care coverage for millions of lower-income children around the country. It costs less than \$3.50 a day to provide health care for a child through CHIP. This small investment keeps kids and families healthy and saves money in the long-run. However, without action from Congress, the law authorizing funding for this important program will expire at the end of September. For this reason, it is essential for Congress and the President to put politics aside to renew this critical, bi-partisan program.

This legislation reauthorizes CHIP and includes an additional \$35 billion for children's health care. This funding is to enroll children throughout our nation who are eligible, but not currently enrolled in CHIP or Medicaid, and to improve the benefits available by adding a guaranteed dental benefit for all children enrolled in CHIP and parity for mental health coverage.

Investing in our children's health care must be a priority for Congress. All Americans—Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—should be able to agree that our children deserve access to quality health care. It is morally right, it is the right thing for our economy and in the richest country in the world—it is possible. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007. This bipartisan legislation will amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA) to extend the moratorium on certain taxes relating to the Internet and to electronic commerce and to address growing concerns as innovation occurs.

I am pleased to say that working together, we have come to an agreement on a definition of Internet access that is clear, precise, and on target. It says that Internet access is a service that enables a user to connect to the Internet. This definition would include incidental services like e-mail and would maintain a lot of the telecommunications language—even going so far as to clarify it—from the last extension of the moratorium in 2004. This definition would further make it explicit that just because a service uses the Internet does not mean that that service had become part of the moratorium.

LENGTH OF THE EXTENSION

This Act would extend the moratorium for 4 years, to run until November 1, 2011. The 4-year extension will allow Congress to make any adjustments to the moratorium if necessary. It will also allow companies a sufficient amount of time to plan their investments, while also giving consumers tax free access to the Internet. Congress has made important adjustments on each previous occasion that we extended the moratorium, in 2001, and again in 2004.

GRANDFATHERING

This Act would extend for 4 years, the grandfather provisions which have preserved those Internet access taxes that were imposed prior to 1998. This is consistent with past extensions.

This Act also phases out those states that claim to be grandfathered as a result of the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act of 2004. The 2004 Act provided for an amended definition of Internet access and resulted in assertions and public rulings made by many states requiring the collection of tax on sales of telecommunications to an Internet service provider to provide Internet access. This is because those states have interpreted the 2004 definition of "Internet access" to broaden the scope of the 1998 grandfather clause to permit taxation on the sales of telecommunications to an Internet service provider to provide Internet access. This Act resolves this problem by allowing those states that have issued public rulings before July 1, 2007 that are inconsistent with the foregoing rules to be held harmless until November 1, 2007.

GROSS RECEIPTS TAX ISSUES IN CERTAIN STATES

A small group of states have recently enacted taxes that apply to almost all large businesses in the state—including Internet access providers. The new gross receipts taxes in these states serve as general business taxes and either substitute for or supplement the corporate income tax currently in place in those states, whereas in all other states, corporate income taxes serve as the general business tax.

The problem is that the originally enacted and further amended Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA) contains an explicit protection for corporate income taxes imposed on Internet access providers, but not for gross receipts taxes. Thus, these select states would suffer a disproportionate loss because while the other states with corporate profits taxes are explicitly allowed to impose them on profits that they gain by providing Internet access services, there is no similar protection in ITFA for the type of general business taxes that are levied by the select states, because they are being levied on gross revenues or receipts, and are not covered in ITFA.

The result is that an Internet access provider could potentially decide not to pay the tax on its receipts attributable to providing Internet access service in those select states. Thus, if the provider companies decided to stop paying on its access service, the wording of ITFA suggests that a court would likely support their position that these gross receipts are not taxable—and the states would lose out on millions in revenues.

This Act resolves this dilemma by creating an exemption for states that have enacted laws that would structure their gross receipts taxes in such a way as to be a substitute for state corporate income taxes that are not taxes on Internet access. To be exempt the state law must have been enacted between June 30, 2005 and November 1, 2007, and must impose such taxes on at least 80 percent of business enterprises engaged in business in the state without regard to (a) the form of organization; (b) business activity in which such enterprise is engaged; (c) minimum filing thresholds; or (d) whether such business actually incurs a filing and payment obligation.

DEFINITION OF "INTERNET ACCESS"

After close examination of the many concerns with the definition of "Internet access" in current law, we have agreed on a precise definition of "Internet access". The proposed definition will accomplish the following:

1. Prevent all tax-exempt content bundling by redefining Internet access as the service of providing a connection to the Internet, with closely-related Internet communications services such as e-mail and instant messaging;
2. Amend the definition of "telecommunications" to include unregulated/non-utility telecommunications (such as cable service); and
3. Remove the current exception for taxing Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), so that states and localities will be free to tax these services.

I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

COMMENDING MAURICE BELL, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE ABOARD THE USS "INDIANAPOLIS" IN WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Mr. Maurice Bell of Mobile, Alabama, for his courageous service as a sailor aboard the USS *Indianapolis* during World War II.

Mr. Bell, along with 320 others, was pulled from the South Pacific following the sinking of the *Indianapolis*, a heavy cruiser brought down by torpedo attack on July 30, 1945. In what was later recognized as the worst single at-sea loss of life in the history of the Navy, Mr. Bell watched his fellow survivors succumb to shark attacks, exposure, and dementia while waiting five nights for rescue. It is estimated that 500–600 sailors died in the water while awaiting rescue.

Mr. Bell, one of 80 remaining *Indianapolis* survivors, tells the story of the *Indianapolis* in Ken Burns' documentary series "The War." The USS *Indianapolis* was no ordinary ship, and it was on no ordinary mission. The ship carried the first atomic bomb to the U.S. air base at Tinian Island. Having successfully delivered its precious cargo, the *Indianapolis* set out for home. Tragically, a pair of torpedo blasts from a Japanese submarine sunk the cruiser and left its crew to struggle for survival in the South Pacific.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Mr. Maurice Bell in Ken Burns' documentary series "The War" is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Bell and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

ANOTHER POLICE MURDER BY POLICE IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on September 22, the Tribune newspaper of Chandigarh reported that a Sikh woman by the name of Lakhbir Kaur held a press conference to expose the murder of her brother, Kinder Singh, by the Indian police. Kinder Singh was an innocent truck driver. He was killed in one of the fake encounters that continue to plague Punjab and other minority areas of India. Kinder Singh was just 20 years old when "the world's largest democracy" snuffed out his life.

Apparently, Kinder Singh was a victim of India's policy of paying bounties to police officers for killing "militants." When he was killed, the police claimed that they had killed a man named Jaspal Singh, who had a bounty of Rs. 5 lakh, 500,000 rupees, or about \$13,000, on his head. In a country where two-thirds of the populace lives on 40 cents per day, \$13,000 is a massive amount of money.

Jaspal Singh, the person who was allegedly killed in the encounter, sat right next to Ms. Kaur during her announcement. He is not the first person to have been proclaimed dead by the Indian government who has turned up alive. Several years ago, the New York Post reported on another man who had to sue the government to have himself declared alive. This is not uncommon in India.

Also there was Colonel G.S. Sandhu of the Majha Ex-Servicemen Human Rights Front. He detailed how Kinder Singh was pulled out of his truck by the police and killed for no apparent reason except to collect the bounty. This is one of over 41,000 cash bounties that our State Department says the Indian Government paid to police for killing Sikhs. One policeman got a cash bounty for killing a three-year-old boy.

Colonel Sandhu demanded that a retired High Court judge conduct a probe into the massive atrocities of the police. He has set up a hotline to report terrorist incidents. We salute Lakhbir Kaur for her courage and we salute Colonel Sandhu for his efforts. I second his call for an impartial probe of the atrocities committed in Punjab.

Unfortunately, the repression is ongoing. Even today, people get arrested for acts such as marching, making speeches, and raising a flag. We cannot accept this, Madam Speaker. We need to stop providing financial support for the Indian regime by stopping our aid and trade, and we need to put the U.S. Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Christians of Nagalim, the Muslims of Kashmir, and all the oppressed minorities of South Asia. Until the people have their freedom and self-determination, atrocities like the one that happened to Lakhbir Kaur's family will sadly continue.

I would like to place the Tribune article on Lakhbir Kaur into the RECORD at this time.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY OR FAKE ENCOUNTER?

Amritsar, September 21, 2007: In what could be yet another case of mistaken identity or a planned fake encounter, the sister of a victim here today claimed that the actual "militant" the police claimed to have killed was still alive.

Lakhbir Kaur alleged that the police killed her brother, Kinder Singh, who was an innocent truck driver, on August 13, 1993, for no reason. Interestingly, Jaspal Singh, who had an award of Rs 5 lakh on his head and was shown killed in police files, was still alive. He was present with Lakhbir Kaur here today.

Addressing a press conference, Col G.S. Sandhu, chairman of the Majha Ex-Servicemen Human Rights Front & NGO Aapna Punjab, demanded a probe by a retired high court judge to bring out the truth of fake encounters so that compensation could be given to the families of the victims.

"Kinder Singh of Nagoke (20) was pulled out of a truck in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh, and shot dead. The story planted was that militant Jaspal Singh of Nangli, carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh, was shot in a police encounter. Kunan Singh, father of Kinder Singh, sold his 3 acres of land and shifted to UP and the family is now living in abject poverty," said Colonel Sandhu.

"Already, leaks from police sources suggest that Kinder Singh and Sukhpal Singh of Kala Afghana were killed as a result of mistaken identity as no reward money was claimed and the records being old have been destroyed as per laid down rules and now it is difficult to pinpoint responsibility at this stage. The issue is why the families of the

two victims were not informed about their deaths," he questioned.

Colonel Sandhu demanded "the state should not shy away from admitting past mistakes, render apology, provide compensation and bring the guilty to the book." He also sought downsizing of the top-heavy police in Punjab. He has also started a terror help line in Tarn Taran.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOSEPHINE B. GRENDALL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Josephine B. Grendell, whose selflessness and tireless devotion to her family made her a role model for other mothers.

Josephine was the wife of the late Edward J. Grendell and the mother of Dr. James H. Grendell, as well as Ohio State Representative Timothy J. Grendell. She was the grandmother of Kate, Mary Jeannette, Patricia, Michael and James and the great-grandmother of Patrick Joseph.

Also known as "Mrs. G" or "Aunt Jo," Josephine truly was a special lady. She embraced everyone she encountered with love and joy. She was always energetic and smiling.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Josephine Grendell, a woman whose warmth and kindness were an inspiration to all who knew her.

TRIBUTE TO THE STERLING HEIGHTS FIREFIGHTERS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, on Friday, September 28, 2007 the Sterling Heights' Fire Fighters Union will host their Annual, Dinner-Dance, honoring Sterling Heights firefighters for their dedication to their community and recognizing their numerous contributions to the city.

They will also pay tribute to the career of one retiring firefighter, Patrick O'Lear. I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tireless and courageous career of a good friend and public servant. Patrick O'Lear retires this year with twenty-one years of dedicated service, having been promoted three times in his career from lieutenant on August 16, 1997, to Captain on January 11, 2003, and to Fire Inspector on May 21, 2003.

Mr. O'Lear was appointed as a Sterling Heights firefighter on September 8, 1986. After graduating from St. Clement High School in Center Line in 1977, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Mercy College in 1982. In December 1991, Mr. O'Lear received his Masters in Science Administration from Central Michigan. In 1989, he was temporarily assigned to the training division and in the same year was immediately recognized as the Employee of the Month. Mr. O'Lear became a Fire Equipment Operator on September 6, 1993.

In 1994, Mr. O'Leary received the Meritorious Unit Citation for a CPR run at Jefferson Elementary. He received Fire Chief Awards for the many training programs presented to the Sterling Heights Fire Department and for the Residence Assistance Program. He has served as a member of the local Safety Committee for nine years and a member of the Apparatus Committee. Mr. O'Leary also became nationally certified as a Fire Explosion Instructor.

Mr. O'Leary has also worked to represent and improve the employment for other firefighters through his service at the local, state and federal levels. He has served as the Secretary and President of the local union, as the State Representative of the International Association of Firefighters and as the 6th District Vice President.

Madam Speaker, I have been pleased to work with Pat over the years in many community service endeavors and have witnessed the tireless and compassionate devotion of Pat and his wife Joan to the individuals and families around them. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Patrick O'Leary, a good friend who has dedicated himself to the community with valor, commitment and honor.

COMMENDING THOMAS GALLOWAY
OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS
SERVICE IN THE SECOND WORLD
WAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas Galloway of Mobile, Alabama, for his service in the United States Army during World War II. Serving as a lieutenant in the European Theater of Operations in the winter of 1944, Mr. Galloway fought bravely in some of the toughest and most brutal battles of the war, including the Battle of the Bulge and the Huertgen Forest.

In his career as a soldier, Mr. Galloway was captured twice, and he escaped twice. Escaping as part of an attempted rescue of Gen. Patton's son-in-law, he was captured and returned to the prisoner-of-war camp in Hammelburg, Germany. Later that spring, Mr. Galloway escaped while on a march toward Austria, eventually making it back behind American lines.

Upon returning home from the war, Mr. Galloway graduated from Auburn University and the University of Alabama School of Law and began a successful law career. He served as assistant attorney general for the state of Alabama and assistant district attorney for Alabama's thirteenth judicial circuit. He is now a member of Galloway, Wettermark, Everest, Rutens & Gaillard, LLP of Mobile.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Mr. Thomas Galloway in Ken Burns' documentary series "The War" is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Galloway and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 47th Anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus. It was on October 1, 1960, that Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

I am honored to represent Astoria, Queens—one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek and Cypriot Americans in this country. I truly enjoy participating in the life of this community and treasure the wonderful and vital Cypriot friends that I have come to know.

As a member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. Unfortunately, the commemoration of Cyprus' Independence Day this year, as in the past, is clouded by the fact that Turkish military forces continue illegally to occupy Cyprus, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 40,000 heavily armed troops on the island.

I have introduced legislation, H. Res. 407, which expresses the strong support of the House of Representatives for the positive actions by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus aimed at opening additional crossing points along the cease-fire line, thereby contributing to efforts for the reunification of the island. On March 8, 2007, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus demolished a wall at Ledra Street in Nicosia, a key thoroughfare through the divided capital, as a gesture to facilitate the opening of Ledra Street as a crossing point. Two months later, the Government demolished a National Guard post at Kato Pyrgos. I commend the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for taking these actions, and I continue to believe that it is time for Turkey to remove its troops from the island so that Cyprus can move forward as one nation. I remain hopeful that an end to this division will be achieved.

I believe that the United States must play an active role in the resolution of the serious issues facing Cyprus. Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under the law. The relationship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring, and we stand together celebrating democracy and freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I could not be present for votes on Monday, September 24, 2007 due to commitments in my district. As a result, I missed 4 rollcall votes.

I would like to enter into the record that if I had been present on September 24, I would have voted yes on H. Con. Res. 193, which would recognize U.S. hunters for their commitment to safety. As a sportsman myself, I appreciate hunters' commitment to safety and support their continued dedication to safe and responsible hunting.

I would have voted yes on H. Res. 668, which would recognize the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas by the Little Rock Nine.

I would have voted yes on H.R. 1199, which would extend grant programs for drug endangered children.

I also would have voted yes on H. Res. 340, which would emphasize the importance of providing a voice for the victims of missing persons cases.

ON THE PASSING OF MR. BILL
WIRTZ

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. HASTERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late William W. Wirtz. Bill was a kind and charitable man, who generously gave back to the people of Illinois throughout his life.

Over 40 years, Bill was the President of the Chicago Blackhawks and chairman of the Wirtz Beverage Group, which operated in Illinois and the surrounding States.

Bill also served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Hockey League for 18 years and was responsible for negotiating the merger between the NHL and the World Hockey Association in the late 1970's as well as the expansion of the league. No one did more for hockey on both the professional and amateur levels than Bill. He served on both the 1980 and 1984 Winter Olympic Committees. For his efforts on both the professional and amateur levels, Bill was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1976, was the recipient of the Lester Patrick Trophy in 1978 and was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 1985.

Under the guidance of Bill, Chicago Blackhawk Charities was established in 1993. Since that time, Blackhawk Charities has donated over \$7.5 million to worthy causes in the Chicagoland area such as Boys and Girls Clubs, Cathedral Shelter, Misericordia Homes, the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Blackhawk Alumni Association, and the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois, AHAI. Bill also donated both the Chicago Stadium and the United Center to host the Blackhawk Cup, the annual High School Boys and Girls State Championship Game, over the past 20 years.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt condolences to Bill's wife Alice, his children Rocky, Gail, Karey, Peter and Alyson, and his seven grandchildren. Bill will always be remembered for his charity and goodwill towards the people of Chicago.

COMMENDING EUGENE SLEDGE,
OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS
SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize the late Dr. Eugene Sledge of Mobile, Alabama, for his courageous service during World War II.

After graduating from Mobile's Murphy High School, he entered Marion Military Institute to study to become an officer. However, as just a freshman, he signed on as a private in the Marines in order not to miss an opportunity at combat.

Private First Class Sledge was assigned to the 1st Marine Division. He trained as a mortarman and fought on Peleliu in September of 1944 and on Okinawa in the spring of 1945. Throughout these months, he kept a journal of his impressions of the fighting, keeping the notes between the pages of his Bible. These notes later became his memoir, *With the Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa*, which he published in 1981. Ken Burns, who recently produced the PBS documentary series "The War," relied heavily on this memoir. His memoir will also form the basis for the HBO series "The Pacific," the successor to "Band of Brothers."

At the end of the war, Corporal Sledge returned to Alabama where he earned both a bachelor of science and a master of science from Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now Auburn University. He earned his doctorate at the University of Florida and became assistant professor of biology at Alabama College, now the University of Montevallo. In 1970, Dr. Sledge was named a professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Montevallo, a position he held until his retirement in 1990.

Dr. Sledge passed away in 2001 before his second memoir, *China Marine: An Infantryman's Life after World War II*, was published.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Dr. Eugene Sledge in "The War" documentary is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. His life and actions personified the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Sledge and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy. I also extend my thanks to his family for sharing the story of his courageous life with all of us.

OTHER MINORITIES SUFFER
MAJOR PERSECUTION AS WELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Chairman of the Sikh Educational Trust and Managing Editor of the international Journal of Sikh Affairs, wrote to President Bush. He noted that "Sikhs live in peace and harmony in every democracy in the world; India is the only exception."

In his excellent letter, Dr. Sekhon outlines the tyranny and abuse the Sikhs have been

subjected to in India. While India talks and talks about being "the world's largest democracy," it continues to commit atrocities against the Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities. Madam Speaker, the essence of democracy is self-determination.

As if the murders of 250,000 Sikhs by the Indian government (the number comes from the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights groups) wasn't enough, Sikhs from outside India must get the formal permission of the Indian government to visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the seat of Sikhism, equivalent to the Vatican of the Sikhs. Suppose that Catholics were barred from Vatican City without permission of the Italian government. Do you think the world would be up in arms about that? Yet, the equivalent condition is imposed upon the Sikhs and nobody says a word. That is how deeply India's propaganda about being "the world's largest democracy" has permeated the world's perceptions, thanks to massive amounts of money spent to propagate this viewpoint through lobbying and media manipulation. It is time to wake up. Madam Speaker. It is time to call India on the carpet for its persecution of minorities.

If the tyranny against the Sikhs were all that India was doing, that would be bad enough. But it is compounded by the persecution of Christians and Muslims, as well as other minorities such as Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others.

In Gujarat, 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were killed in riots that a policeman told the newspapers were planned and organized by the Indian government. It has killed over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir while refusing to give the Kashmiris self-determination via a free and fair plebiscite on their status, as India promised the United Nations in 1948.

Christians have been prime targets of Indian persecution. Churches have been burned. Nuns have been raped and forced to drink their own urine, to the cheers of militant Hindu organizations such as the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which produced a booklet on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases. Priests have been murdered, schools and prayer halls have been vandalized, and more than 300,000 Christians have been killed in Nagaland at the hands of the Indian government. Missionary Graham Staines was killed by a mob of Hindu militants along with his eight-year-old son. The killers poured gasoline over their jeep, set it on fire, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman." Missionary Joseph Cooper, an American, was expelled from the country after he was beaten up so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. A Christian religious festival on the theme "Jesus is the Answer" was broken up by police gunfire after people there distributed religious literature.

In several Indian states, there are laws prohibiting anyone from converting to any religion but Hinduism.

Madam Speaker, this is unacceptable. We must support the rights of these minorities by stopping American aid to India and stopping our trade with India as well. It's clearly not benefitting the Indian people. Two thirds of the population lives on less than half a dollar a day. We must also demand a free and fair vote on independence for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Christians of Nagalim, the Muslims of Kashmir, and all the various peoples seeking their freedom from India.

Madam Speaker, I would like to add Dr. Sekhon's excellent letter to the RECORD at this time.

THE SIKH EDUCATIONAL TRUST,
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, July 30, 2007.
Re: violation of religious and political rights
of Sikhs in India.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President, United States of America, The White
House, Washington, DC.

HONOURABLE PRESIDENT, I am writing this letter to seek your intervention in the religious affairs of the Sikhs, especially the Diaspora Sikhs in North America, Europe and other continents.

The Sikhs live in peace and harmony in every democracy in the world; India is the only exception. In fact, the Sikhs are treated as slaves even in the Punjab, which is the holy and historic homeland of the Sikhs. This is because the ruling class consists of Brahmins—who are only 4 percent of the population along with 10-11 percent of Hindus of other castes. Although a majority in the Punjab, the Sikhs are 2.5 percent of the huge population of India that is approximately 1.1 billion. It is because of the denial of the right of self-determination in our land that India is able to marginalize the Sikhs as a small minority. The Hindu-Brahmin rulers have pursued their anti-human agenda: (i) practice of unsociability against the native majority who are 65 percent of the population, and (ii) persecution of mono-theistic faiths—the Sikhs, the Christians and the Muslims, by maintaining an environment of fear and of crushing poverty.

In June 1984, even the facade of Secular Tolerance was discarded when the Indian Army assaulted the holiest shrine of the Sikhs—the Darbar Sahib (also known as the Golden Temple) including the Supreme Seat of Sikh Polity, the Akal Takht Sahib, killing tens of thousands of devotees inside the temple. The Indian administration has ever since maintained heavy presence of its intelligence and armed personnel in the state. No Sikh from outside India can visit his/her holy place and the seat of Sikhs' polity without having a formal 'visa' endorsement in their passport from the Indian Embassy or Consulate. Mr. President, this constitutes a violation of the Sikhs' religious rights. Pilgrimage to pay respect to Gurus is a right that should not depend on the caprice of a government. It certainly should not depend on the goodwill of a state that has not just failed to protect but has actually been an instrument of our persecution and destruction of our holy sites by wanton bombardment.

Mr. President, India is interfering in my religious affairs. As a free citizen of a free country, I cannot approve of the way the Sikhs are treated in India; I cannot condone the assault of the Indian Army on Darbar Sahib in June 1984; I cannot support that the Sikhs relinquish their right to self-determination. I am required to do all this in order to get a visa. And if I did any of these things, I would not be a Sikh. That means, in order to get an Indian visa, I am required to renounce my faith. That cannot be acceptable.

Mr. President, no Roman Catholic needs a visa to visit the Vatican, no Jew is prevented from visiting Jerusalem, a visa cannot be denied to a Muslim to go to Mecca, why do the Sikhs need to have India's Hindu/Brahmins (neither a religion nor a culture), permission to visit their holiest shrine? Indian administration's control of the Sikhs' shrines constitutes an intervention into their religious affairs. That's why, Honourable President, none of the elected representatives of the Sikhs accepted/initiated/endorsed the Indian Constitution of 1950. Under Article 25 of that Constitution, the Sikh faith and national

identity was 'de-recognized'. The Sikhs were constitutionally 'exterminated'. Because of this blatant injustice, the Sikhs, elected representatives—Sardar Hukam Singh, MP; Sardar Bhupinder Singh Maan, MP; and Sardar Kapur Singh, ICS, MP, MLA and National Professor of Sikhism—'Rejected' the Indian Constitution of 1950 and its Article 25, in its draft and final forms, every time it was put to vote in the Indian parliament—in 1948, on 26th November, 1949, in 1950 and on 6th September, 1966.

Honourable President, the question is why we, the Sikh citizens of the United States and Canada, of Europe, Far East, and other continents should need a 'Visa' or the permission of the predominantly Hindu-Brahmin administration. Especially after the June, 1984 assault on Darbar Sahib Complex—which is the Sikh Vatican—and an 'undeclared' war on the Sikhs ever since. This undeclared war has taken a heavy toll. The "Operation Bluestar" of June, 1984 was blessed by the government of a so-called 'democratic' state. The desecration of their holy places and wanton massacre of the Sikhs was carried out for no reason other than their demanding the right of self-determination honouring the pledges made to the Sikhs by Mahatma Gandhi and Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru. More than 250,000 innocent Sikh (majority of whom were infants, children, youth, females and the elderly have been killed by Indian security forces. This is the hallmark of a fascist oligarchy, not a democracy.

In recent months, the arrests of Simranjit Singh Mann, Chief of Akali Dal Amritsar, Mann's vice president, Daljit Singh Dittu and the arrest warrants of an Editor and academic, Dr Sukhpreet Singh Udhoke, provide further evidence that repression of the Sikhs continues even in the Sikh majority state of the Punjab, the administration of which is headed by a Sikh, Prakash Badal. The former two are being tried, along with 30 other Sikhs, on charges of 'treason'. Treason against who? How does the Indian Constitution apply to the Sikhs when the Sikhs' elected representatives 'rejected' it repeatedly?

Mr. President, there is great anxiety among the Sikhs in Diaspora over the denial of their religious and political rights and repression of dissent. If India is not restrained by the international community and its leader—the USA—peace and security in the whole region would be undermined. In retrospect and historically, India was never a country; it was an empire (the British Empire). In its belly there are many peoples with legitimate right to self-determination—in Kashmir (mainly Muslim) in the Punjab (mainly Sikhs) in the states of Assam (mainly Christian) who are not a part of the Indian nation. The issues relating to the native majority—the children of lesser gods—encompass a huge section of humanity, as many as 700 million people. All this cannot be swept under the carpet or buried under slogans like 'India Shining'. The Sikhs want their own sovereign state—as they had been (1799 to 14th March, 1849, under a Sikh monarch Ranjit Singh) before the British take over, as an "annexed" state, of the Punjab in 1849. Until then, we want unrestricted access to our holy places. No Sikh should need a visa to go to the Punjab. And peaceful dissent should not just be tolerated; it should be respected and honoured. Is dissent not the hall mark of democracy?

I shall look forward to hearing from you.

With regards,

Respectfully submitted,

AWATAR SINGH SEKHON.

TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GILLESPIE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church was established on August 4, 1907. The church's first meeting was held in a tent at the site where the church is today. Reverend F.M. Doewell was the first pastor called in September, 1907. He was one of only 15 pastors called to serve over this first 100 years.

On July 1, 1910, the membership began worship services in the basement of the new meeting house with Dr. M.D. Jeffries, President of Carson Newman College, preaching the first sermon in the new building.

On May 7, 1916, the church auditorium was completed and dedicated and a piano was approved and purchased later that same year for the church.

On January 7, 1917, the church voted to borrow money to pay the pastor's salary. The finance report at that time showed a balance of \$.16. Eight years later, the enrollment was 426 with an average attendance of 263 and the average Sunday offering was \$65.89.

On October 12, 1938, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rose donated a pipe organ to the church in honor of their parents.

The original church building was destroyed by fire on January 22, 1961. Services were held in the new sanctuary on September 2, 1962, where they remain today.

I am proud to have such an outstanding Christian institution in my district.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Gillespie Avenue Baptist Church on its 100th anniversary and may God bless this congregation in the years to come.

OHIO WILLOW WOOD CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF HELPING THE ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC INDUSTRY

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Ohio Willow Wood, a leader in the prosthetic and orthotic industry. Over the years, the family-owned company based in Mt. Sterling, Ohio, has provided products to help amputees live full and active lifestyles.

In 1907, Ohio Willow Wood was founded by William E. Arbogast, who personally experienced the challenges of living as an amputee from injuries he suffered in a railroad accident. His experience with poorly-fitting, uncomfortable and unreliable prosthetic products inspired him to establish Ohio Willow Wood.

Over the next century, the company that started out making it easier for prosthetists to obtain quality materials for their patients, became a global leader in designing and manu-

facturing lower limb prosthetic components. Through innovative research and development, the company has been responsible for several breakthroughs in the prosthetic industry. These include the first American-made "solid ankle, cushion heel" (SACH) foot, and the Alpha Liner, which is the first fabric-covered, gel interface system that improves the comfort and protection for prosthetic users. Ohio Willow Wood is also involved in research and development of new products and technology for the U.S. Army to use in its treatment of victims of lower extremity loss.

In addition to designing and manufacturing prosthetic products, Ohio Willow Wood develops Computer Aided Design (CAD) software and equipment for the orthotic and prosthetic community. The company also has global distribution partners and direct offices in Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

While many aspects of Ohio Willow Wood have evolved and changed over the past 100 years, the company's commitment to the orthotic and prosthetic industry remains constant. Today, third and fourth generations of the Arbogast family are active in the daily operations of Ohio Willow Wood, standing by its promise to free the bodies and spirits of amputees.

Madam Speaker, I commend all of the employees at Ohio Willow Wood for reaching this milestone, and I wish them continued success in the years to come.

H.R. 2900, THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

HON. MIKE FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the passage of the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 (FDAAA). This critical piece of legislation reauthorizes the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) and provides the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with additional resources to further promote and protect the public health. The FDAAA reinforces and expands FDA's comprehensive authority in all aspects of drug regulation—including with respect to drug safety and labeling—and takes the nation's drug safety system, which is already the most rigorous, and makes it even stronger. I commend my colleagues and their dedicated staff on both sides of the aisle who worked tirelessly to ensure that this bill was completed in a bipartisan manner before the September 30, 2007 expiration of the existing PDUFA program.

The funds from PDUFA are used to allow FDA to hire additional staff to perform its critical drug review functions while maintaining the same exacting standards for safety and efficacy. Additional funding provided as part of FDAAA will allow the FDA to expand drug safety monitoring, hire additional staff for post-market surveillance, and modernize its information technology systems. Expanded resources will also enable FDA to hire additional employees to review broadcast drug advertisements prior to public dissemination, helping to ensure that benefits and risks of prescription drug products are clearly and accurately communicated to the public. The legislation creates strong incentives for companies to submit

such advertisements to the FDA before they are aired.

In passing the FDAAA, Congress also reauthorizes the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act (BPCA) and the Pediatric Research Equity Act (PREA), both of which were set to expire on September 30. Since its original passage, the BPCA has done more than any other initiative to generate vital information about the use of medicines in pediatric populations and to promote research on the use of pharmaceutical products in children. The BPCA and PREA were designed to work in tandem to promote and support pediatric research. Therefore, it is critical that these two programs remain linked, as they are in the FDAAA.

Since its original enactment in 1992, PDUFA has been a resounding success. It has enabled the timely review of new medicines while at the same time preserving FDA's strict and objective review process. As a result, more than 1,000 new medicines have been made available to patients over the past 15 years. These medicines have helped millions of people lead healthier, more productive lives, and contributed to a longer life expectancy than ever before. By reauthorizing PDUFA and passing the drug safety enhancements contained in the FDAAA, Congress has helped to ensure FDA's continued role as the authority on drug safety and drug regulation.

COMMENDING HERNDON INGE, OF
MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS
SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Judge Herndon Inge of Mobile, Alabama, for his courageous service during World War II. His heroic story, along with other Mobilians, is told in the Ken Burns' documentary series "The War."

Judge Inge attended the University of Alabama and then the Army's officer candidate school. He was commissioned January 7, 1944, and became a 2nd lieutenant in company D, 301st Regiment, 94th Infantry Division, in a heavy weapons unit.

Arriving in France in September of 1944, he and his division contained 60,000 German troops along the French coast at St. Lazaire and Lorient. Following the sinking of the USS *Leopoldville* when hundreds of American soldiers were killed, Lt. Inge was sent into the Battle of the Bulge. He was captured by German troops on January 21, 1945.

He was held at numerous POW camps, and he finally ended up in Oflag XIII B near Hammelburg. He was liberated April 21, 1945. After the war, 1st Lt. Inge returned to Mobile. He attended law school and began his law practice in 1948. He was appointed Juvenile Court Judge and then appointed Circuit Judge of the Domestic Relations Division by then Alabama Governor Jim Folsom. At the time, he was the only judge in Mobile County to serve in both capacities at the same time.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Judge Herndon Inge in "The War" documentary is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in

World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Judge Inge and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANCE (STAAR) ACT

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the "Strategies to Address Antimicrobial Resistance (STAAR) Act," which I believe has the potential to save many thousands of lives by strengthening the United States' response to infectious pathogens that are becoming increasingly resistant to existing antibiotics. I am proud to introduce this legislation with my colleague, Rep. MIKE FERGUSON, as a concrete step towards addressing antibiotic resistance.

Media reports about the threat of resistant infections now occur on almost a daily basis. Earlier this year, media attention regarding extensively-drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) made this topic common conversation in our homes and offices. Suddenly we were forced to think about how quickly an infection can spread, especially in the age of international air travel, and the disastrous result if the cause was a strain of bacteria that failed to respond to our current antibiotics.

Another resistant infection drastically on the rise is community-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (CA-MRSA). Historically, this infection was acquired during a hospital stay, but now is affecting young, healthy people and spreading in our communities. We've heard stories of high school, college and professional athletes losing their lives or careers as a result of these infections. Sadly, this infection has become far too common, difficult to treat and has few options to fight it. It can leave individuals disfigured, if they survive. In my own state of Utah, the number of children with MRSA infections at the Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City has increased by almost 20 fold since 1989.

There are still more infections to worry about. We have numerous reports of our soldiers coming home from Iraq with *Acinetobacter*—a resistant infection that is especially difficult to treat and the only option is a very toxic antibiotic.

Other examples of concern include vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA), an alarming development because vancomycin is the drug of last resort for treating several serious infections, and *Escherichia coli* (E. coli), which has caused outbreaks due to contamination of spinach, peanut butter, and other foods we regularly consume.

We have taken antibiotic development for granted. Few of us remember medicine before the discovery of antibiotics. Antibiotics have allowed many medical advances, including routine invasive surgeries, organ transplants, and other procedures that otherwise would be impossible due to resulting infections. But we are falling behind in our ability to protect ourselves against infections, and we have a lot of catching up to do.

In addition, there are problems of significant and inappropriate use of antibiotics; a lack of adequate research to address the many facets of resistance, including basic, clinical, interventional, and epidemiologic research as well as research to support the development of new diagnostics, biologics, devices and, of course, antibiotics; a fractured and underfunded resistance surveillance system; and insufficient coordination of the federal response, which is critically needed as the solutions to addressing antibiotic resistance involve multiple agencies and departments.

I am not the first person in the United States Congress to take on this issue. I feel certain, however, that the STAAR Act is the most comprehensive legislation introduced to date to address this serious and life-threatening patient safety and public health problem. There is no doubt that we must act now to begin to reverse the alarming trend, and infectious disease experts tell me that the multi-pronged approach contained in the STAAR Act provides our best chance to address the multiple problems that face us.

I commend my many colleagues who have demonstrated leadership on this issue over the years, especially Chairman DINGELL. He recognized this issue nearly 15 years ago and asked the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) to examine the problem of antimicrobial resistance. In 1995, OTA reported to Congress that "The impacts of antibiotic-resistant bacteria can be reduced by preserving the effectiveness of current antibiotics through infection control, vaccination and prudent use of antibiotics, and by developing new antibiotics specifically to treat infections caused by antibiotic resistant bacteria."

Also, I would like to recognize the leadership of my colleague from Michigan, Mr. STUPAK. In the 106th Congress, he and our former colleague, Mr. BURR, introduced the "Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act." Parts of this bill became law and provide the basis of the legislation I introduce today. Specifically, that bill, which is expressed in Section 319E, "Combating Antimicrobial Resistance" of the Public Health Service Act, directed the Secretary to establish an Antimicrobial Resistance Task Force to coordinate Federal programs relating to antimicrobial resistance. Also, the bill required research and development of new antimicrobial drugs and diagnostics; educational programs for medical and health personnel in the use of antibiotics; and grants to establish demonstration programs promoting the judicious use of antimicrobial drugs and the detection and control of the spread of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens. Authorization for these programs expired September 30, 2006. The STAAR Act reauthorizes these programs and builds on the Federal efforts that have been highlighted in the Public Health Service Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance, published in 2001 by the Task Force.

The Action Plan identified thirteen key elements (out of 84 elements) as top priority action items that are critically necessary to address the growing resistance crisis. Only months after the release of the Action Plan, our former colleague Mr. BROWN and many of my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee, including Chairmen DINGELL and PALLONE, and Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GREEN, and Ms. DEGETTE, introduced the "Antibiotic Resistance Prevention Act of 2001."

This legislation sought to provide additional funding specifically for the top priority action items in the Action Plan. My colleagues recognized the urgency of this situation and explained that "The Institute of Medicine, the American Society for Microbiology, the World Health Organization, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and the General Accounting Office each have found that the Nation should improve surveillance for mounting antimicrobial resistance problems; prolong the useful life of antimicrobial drugs; develop new drugs; and utilize other measures, such as improved vaccines, diagnostics, and infection control measures to prevent and control antimicrobial resistance."

Although Congress has taken steps in the past to address the problem, antimicrobial resistance continues to grow. In 2004, the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) published, "Bad Bugs, No Drugs: As Antibiotic Discovery Stagnates a Public Health Crisis Brews" to highlight the lack of research and development for new antibiotics. Antibiotics are not profitable compared to those that treat chronic (long-term) conditions and lifestyle issues. In addition, when a new antibiotic comes on the market, it is discouraged from use to avoid the development of resistance. Also, antibiotics are taken for short periods of time—unlike those for chronic disease which may be taken daily.

Earlier this year, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. CUBIN and I introduced legislation to provide tax credits and other incentives for antibiotic research and development, as well as to encourage that antibiotics, vaccines, and diagnostics become more commonly manufactured in the United States.

Last week, Congress sent the FDA Amendments Act to the President for signature. This legislation included antibiotic provisions I supported and offered as an amendment during committee consideration. Specifically, the FDA Amendments Act promotes education regarding what incentives may be available through the Orphan Drug program for antibiotics and improves information laboratories and clinicians have about antibiotic resistance.

The "Strategies to Address Antimicrobial Resistance (STAAR) Act" compliments these past legislative efforts. The STAAR Act is comprehensive legislation that advances the thirteen key elements identified in the Action Plan and authorizes adequate funding for these strategies.

My bill strengthens existing efforts by establishing an Office of Antimicrobial Resistance (OAR) within the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health. The Director of OAR would serve as the director of the existing interagency task force. Also, to encourage input from experts outside the federal government, my bill would establish a Public Health Antimicrobial Advisory Board (PHAAB) to provide much needed advice about antimicrobial resistance and strategies to address it. The STAAR Act will strengthen existing surveillance, data collection, and research activities as a means to reduce the inappropriate use of antimicrobials, develop and test new interventions to limit the spread of resistant organisms, and create new tools to detect, prevent and treat these "bad bugs" for which there are no drugs. Infectious diseases experts, including the IDSA, have said it strongly supports this multi-faceted, strategic approach.

I appreciate the interest and leadership many of my colleagues have demonstrated on

this issue in the past. This legislation has been a long time coming. I appreciate the effort of my colleague, Mr. FERGUSON, who joins me to introduce this bipartisan legislation. Finally, I urge my colleagues to work with me to give our federal agencies the tools they need to ensure that combating antimicrobial resistance becomes a priority.

NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, as many of my colleagues hopefully know, September was National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. All across the Nation men and women came together for events to both raise awareness of this terrible scourge and to show their support for the women and families struggling with this horrible disease—the deadliest of the gynecologic cancers. For example, September 7, 2007, was "Teal Time"—a day on which millions of Americans nationwide wore the official color of ovarian cancer—teal—to raise awareness about ovarian cancer.

While National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month may be over for 2007, the fight against ovarian cancer goes on. When it is detected early, ovarian cancer is very treatable; unfortunately, ovarian cancer is one of the most difficult cancers to diagnose because symptoms are sometimes subtle and may be easily confused with those of other diseases. As a result, only 29 percent of ovarian cancer cases in the U.S. are diagnosed in the early stages. When the disease is detected before it has spread beyond the ovaries, more than 95 percent of women will survive longer than five years. But, in cases where the disease is not detected until it reaches the advanced stage, the five-year survival rate plummets to a devastating 25 percent.

As there is still no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test for ovarian cancer, like the Pap smear for cervical cancer or the mammogram for breast cancer, early recognition of symptoms is clearly the best way to save a woman's life. Increased education and awareness about ovarian cancer and recognition of women who are at higher risk for developing ovarian cancer, is the only way that women and their doctors will be able to stop ignoring or misinterpreting the subtle symptoms of the disease. Recently, the American Cancer Society and the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance came to a consensus on the identifiable symptoms of ovarian cancer, even in the early stages. The experts believe if a woman experiences any of the following symptoms for at least three weeks—bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, frequent or urgent need to urinate—she should immediately see her gynecologist.

I urge all of my colleagues to remember those symptoms and I ask each and every one of you to please make a special point of discussing them with your mothers, your wives and your daughters; and encourage them to talk about these symptoms with other women. The simple fact is that ignorance kills. The more women who know what to look for, the

more lives we can save. If we love our mothers, our wives and our daughters, and I am sure that we do, then we owe it to them to make the effort to talk with them about ovarian cancer.

POPCORN WORKERS LUNG DISEASE PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2693) to direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a standard regulating worker exposure to diacetyl:

Mr. BACA. Mr. Chairman, this bill requires the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to issue an interim standard to protect workers in the popcorn manufacturing and flavoring industries and gives time to work on a permanent standard.

I urge support of H.R. 2693, the "Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Act."

Every time we microwave a bag of popcorn, we are contributing to lung disease.

Every time we purchase popcorn at the local grocery store, we are contributing to lung disease.

Let's be responsible and start contributing to a solution.

Let's make sure that we support workplace safety legislation.

There is no excuse for workers to need lung transplants or to die just because they are making popcorn for our pleasure.

There is no reason why children should lose a parent from dying of "Popcorn Lung."

Yes, this disease is rare, but it is also irreversible and deadly.

OSHA must issue control measures and education measures to prevent this from happening and to minimize worker exposure.

There is no excuse!

Tens of thousands of food processing workers report to work each day and are exposed to this dangerous chemical without any controls.

This bill will give OSHA two (2) years to decide on a final standard for permissible exposure limits.

That time limit is fair and just.

Let's contribute to a solution and put an end to popcorn lung disease!

Americans have a right to be safe at work, to breathe easily and to raise their families knowing that their government will protect them from dangerous chemicals.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2693.

COMMENDING RAY PITTMAN, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Mr. Ray

Pittman of Mobile, Alabama, for his courageous service during World War II. His heroic story, along with other Mobilians, is told in Ken Burns' documentary series "The War."

Mr. Pittman was working in Mobile for his father's carpentry business when he enlisted in the Marines. Trained to be a member of a demolition team that assaults enemy "strong points" in advance of the rifleman, he was assigned to the 4th Marine Division, 20th Marine Engineers.

In February of 1944, he and his division were fighting in the Marshall Islands before landing on Saipan. After securing the island, they invaded Tinian. Pittman lost 50 pounds in the five months he spent on these two islands. By February of 1945, he was promoted to sergeant and put in charge of his own demolition team. On February 19, 1945, Sgt. Pittman and his squad landed on Iwo Jima. The squad of 16 was left with only three men by the end of the battle.

Mr. Pittman's daughter, Beth Harrison, put it best in her article for the Hattiesburg American, "Dad has always said he has lived 62 years more than he should have and has often wondered and marveled at why his life was spared. Now, at age 84, Ken Burns will tell his story."

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Mr. Ray Pittman in "The War" documentary is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Pittman and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES VANIK

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and tribute to former Rep. Charles Vanik of Ohio, who died Wednesday August 31 at his home in Jupiter, Florida at age 94.

Looking back at the career and mission of Representative Vanik, it is an utterly refreshing example of a legislator who didn't let politics get in the way of his goals and vision for his constituents and people all over the world. Many of my colleagues have already mentioned the historic Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Reform Act of 1974. This critical human rights legislation was the mark on the map for Charles Vanik with regards to those outside the state of Ohio, but for us Ohioans, we know Congressman Vanik as a lifelong stalwart for all of those who are socially and economically oppressed.

Charles Vanik led a life of complete selflessness. After receiving his law degree he was on the City Council and in the Ohio legislature where he was valued for his consistent effort and achievements. He then joined the Navy during World War II. After his time in the service, Charles Vanik became a municipal judge until 1954 when he first ran for Congress. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee with jurisdiction over tax law, Congressman Vanik was known for his fights against big

business tax breaks in the halls and corridors of Congress as he was known for his signature bow ties.

Congressman Vanik served honorably and long as a dedicated public servant. Mr. Vanik, who had rarely spent little more than \$3,000 for any of his re-election bids, became increasingly discouraged with the changing political world and the need to siphon time and resources away from addressing the concerns of his constituents. He chose not to run for re-election in 1980.

Charles Vanik's life and his commitment to principle are truly remarkable. I believe one of the most important things we should learn from the actions and words of Charles Vanik is to constantly hold ourselves to the highest possible standards, no matter what the political environment or what criticism you might face. The United States Congress and the state of Ohio will miss one of its greatest public officials, Congressman Charles Vanik.

HONORING BERGEN COUNTY ACADEMIES

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Bergen County Academies, whose outstanding work has been rewarded with the Intel Schools of Distinction Award which commends their superior math and science programs.

The Intel Schools of Distinction Award recognizes kindergarten through twelfth grade schools that promote 21st Century learning skills in math and science. One elementary, one middle, and one high school in each of two categories—math and science—will receive a \$10,000 cash grant and \$150,000 in products and services from the award's sponsors. In order to be considered as an Intel School of Distinction, schools must develop an environment and curricula that meet or exceed benchmarks, including national mathematics and science content standards. Bergen County Academies was one of only six schools selected to receive this honorable distinction nationwide.

The classes at Bergen County Academies—from the pre-kindergarten class to the twelfth grade—have demonstrated excellence in implementing innovative programs that support positive student achievement in math and science, effectively use technology, and leverage the benefits of teamwork in the development of superior classroom teachers. Winning schools serve as models for educators across the country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending Principal Daniel Jaye, the staff, and students of Bergen County Academies for their outstanding commitment to excellence in math and science. They are a great credit to our community and entire country.

IN HONOR OF BRIAN SIMPSON,
WES WILLIAMS, AND JOE JANSEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank three of my constituents who helped save the life of their friend Todd Endris, after he was attacked by a Great White shark off Marina State Beach in California on August 28. Though shark attacks actually are less common than the media would have you believe they are nonetheless startling and scary whenever they do happen. We are reminded only too graphically of the power of nature when these beasts of the ocean appear.

Endris, a 24-year-old student at California State University at Monterey Bay, was surfing in Marina when a 15-foot Great White caught him on his right side and dragged him under the waves. Todd fought with the shark, striking it again and again on the eye with his fist. After what seemed like endless punches the shark released Todd who scrambled desperately back to the water's surface exhausted and bleeding. His friend Joe Jansen who had seen the attack unfold shouted to Endris to grab hold of and climb back on his surfboard as best he could while friends and fellow surfers Brian Simpson and Wes Williams helped steer him back to the beach. Todd lost nearly three liters of blood and was close to shock. Without the intervention of the other three swimmers, he could have slipped away and back into danger's path. As it was, he suffered extensive injuries to his torso and right hip and leg. He was flown to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose and is now expected to make a full recovery.

Madam Speaker, August 28 started out like any other day for these young men, who were simply out for a day of surfing. No one expected to be called "hero" before the day was done. But that is exactly what I would call Joe Jansen, Brian Simpson and Wes Williams for their courage in saving their friend Todd Endris from a fatal shark attack. I thank them for their selfless bravery and wish Todd good luck in his recovery.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF MICHAEL VARNEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution of Fire Chief Michael Varney to the citizens of Ellington, Connecticut and the strength of our volunteer corps of first responders. Michael was recently selected by Fire Chief Magazine as the 2007 Volunteer Chief of the Year, a great honor in the field and a testament to the commitment and selfless public service of this citizen hero. The award is made all the more special given that the nomination and selection comes from his peers from across the nation amongst an enviable group of worthy candidates. Our nation owes a great debt to these first responders who voluntarily put their life on

the line to ensure the safety of their community and Connecticut is very fortunate to have Chief Varney as a member of its fire service.

After graduating from high school, Michael followed in his father's footsteps and began his career at the Ellington Volunteer Fire Department where he has now served for 23 years. He quickly moved up the ranks and became chief seven years ago. During that time, Michael has superbly led the 50-person department and has been instrumental in securing almost \$500,000 in federal grants to provide the critical life-saving equipment necessary to protect his community. He has led with dedication and poise under extreme circumstances and developed the respect of the region's premier firefighting personnel.

Michael has also contributed to the state and regional preparedness through his involvement with the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association and the state's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council. He is also a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs committee that has put together a national emergency response network of firefighters, hospital staff, and other emergency personnel. His full-time position with the Department of Information Technology has provided invaluable communication systems expertise not only to his department but also to regional and national organizations.

Chief Varney represents the changing role of our nation's first responders and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life of service and dedication to the protection of our communities.

COMMENDING JOHN GRAY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE MARINE CORPS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Mr. John Gray of Mobile, Alabama, for his service to his country as a Marine during World War II. As a member of the 51st Defense Battalion, Mr. Gray served in one of only two black Marine units trained for combat.

After changing his age in an effort to get a job at a Mobile construction company, Mr. Gray was drafted into the military when he was just sixteen. Though he and his unit were trained for combat and sent to the South Pacific with training and experience in handling 90- and 150-millimeter machine guns, his white commanding officers relegated them to menial tasks such as unloading cargo and carrying ammunition.

Carrying his experiences from segregated Alabama into the Marines, Mr. Gray served patriotically despite discrimination. When Japanese propaganda encouraged him and other black soldiers to defect, Mr. Gray chose to fight for his country.

Returning from the war to a state still more rigidly segregated than the armed forces, Mr. Gray devoted his life to education. He is now retired after serving for 50 years in Mobile city schools as a teacher and assistant principal.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of John Gray in Ken Burns' documentary series "The

War" is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. John Gray and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

GLOBAL POVERTY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Global Poverty Act and want to take a moment to explain the profound need for this important piece of legislation.

Nearly 2.7 billion people in the world live on less than \$2 a day. Close to a billion people live on less than \$1 a day. Vast numbers of people wake up every morning wondering whether they or their children will live to see the end of the day. Poverty leads to widespread disease and instability, and in a world with such vast resources, its existence is absolutely immoral. And yet, the United States has not stated that reducing global poverty and eliminating extreme global poverty are among the foremost goals of our foreign policy, nor have we implemented a comprehensive plan to reach these goals.

H.R. 1302 declares it official U.S. policy to promote the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the U.N. Millennium Development Goal of cutting extreme global poverty in half by 2015. This bill requires the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to carry out this policy. It includes guidelines for what the strategy should include from aid, trade, and debt relief to working with the international community, businesses, and NGOs to insuring environmental sustainability. The bill also requires the President's strategy include specific and measurable goals, efforts to be undertaken, benchmarks, and time-tables. Lastly it requires that the President report back to Congress biannually on the progress made in the implementation of the strategy.

To be clear, Americans are working to address global poverty. The President implemented the Millennium Challenge Account to make sure countries don't just get foreign aid but use it wisely. Other significant steps forward include funding the PEPFAR effort and AIDS treatment and prevention in Africa. The United Nations set out the Millennium Development Goals and the G-8 set global poverty as its priority a couple years ago. Groups like the Gates Foundation, RESULTS and Bread for the World and a large number of other organizations combat global poverty from every conceivable angle. The world is coming together as it never has before to combat this menace, but in the U.S. no overarching strategy guides the allocation of resources.

The United States of America should be not just a leader, but the leader in this effort. We are in a position, I believe, to consolidate those resources, to get the maximum return on our effort to relieve global poverty. This bill would bring much-needed strategic vision and accountability to our efforts to address what is

arguably the greatest challenge facing the world community today.

I want to thank a large number of people for bringing the Global Poverty Act to the floor. House Foreign Affairs Chairman TOM LANTOS (D-Calif.) has been a tremendous leader on these issues and has been very helpful in this particular piece of legislation, as has Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN (R-Fla.) and the Republicans on the committee. This is a bipartisan effort. I especially want to thank Congressman SPENCER BACHUS (R-Ala.) who joined me as an original co-sponsor.

It is very important that we adopt this legislation and help the U.S. take this leadership role. I believe if we do so we'll be better able to combat global poverty and be better able to build alliances throughout the world. This new policy will let the world know that the United States wants to use its power for the betterment of the entire world and that we want to work with the international community to solve the greatest crisis facing our world today.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF EUDORA, KANSAS, ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Eudora, Kansas, located in the Third Congressional District, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary on October 5th and 6th of this year.

In 1856, three members of a German Immigrant Settlement Company [called Deutsche-Neusiedlungsverein] from Chicago sent out a location committee to choose a town site in the new Indian Territory, which had been opened up to settlement by the Kansas-Nebraska Act, enacted in 1854. Both pro- and anti-slavery groups flocked to this territory.

The three Germans sent to the present site were H. Heimann, F. Barteldes and C. Scheifer. Favoring the Eudora area, they drew up contracts with Shawnee Chief Paschal Fish for 774½ acres, from the Kansas River to the south for about a mile [over 200 blocks total], with two public squares and a park. In February 1857, Chief Fish entered into contracts with the Trustees of the Chicago Verein for purchase of land "to secure a more perfect title" for a price of \$10,000. Chief Fish bought back on the same day the old numbered lots of at least three blocks between the Kansas and Wakarusa Rivers. The Shawnee Reservation had been opened up for settlement; Chief Fish was a cousin of Chief Tecumseh, a businessman and a Methodist minister who had been educated at a Mission School.

A map of Douglas County drawn up in early 1857, before Eudora was a town, shows only four townships in the county with Eudora included in the Wakarusa Township. A group of 16 men, four women and some children had come in the spring of 1857 to begin settling at the site. Peter Hartig, age 34, was the leader of this Chicago group, and was accompanied by his wife. The Society paid expenses for the settlers. Eight more men, who paid their own way, came later. The formal title, signed by an Indian Agent named Newsom, was drawn up on February 4, 1860.

The town's name was derived from the name of Chief Paschal Fish's 13-year-old daughter; it is a name of Greek derivation meaning "giving" or "generous." Chief Fish said that if they did this, a tornado would never touch down in Eudora. There has not been a tornado there to this day!

A circular saw and a corn cracker worth \$2,200 were soon purchased for the new town. The first house built by the settlers was a one-story log cabin, 18' x 20', which was shared by all of the inhabitants during the first summer, of 1857. The first sawmill was set up in the same year, and by fall, the first post office was operating and converted into a money order office the next year. The first hotel was probably The America House on Main Street, or near the 5th and 6th Street area.

The first baby born in the new town was a daughter, to Mr. and Mrs. Chris Eppe, soon after their arrival; she was named Eudora. The first marriage occurred between Mrs. George Harboldt and Freid Deichmann in the spring of 1858. The first death was in the fall of 1857 when J. Loederlie died. The captain of the original Townsiders, Hartig, lived until 1902, when he was killed by a Santa Fe train; his wife had died the previous year.

The first public building was a frame town hall and school house built in 1860 and used as a polling place, dance hall and community room. It was sited at 6th and Main Streets and later moved to 7th and Main Streets. There was a jail under it in the mid-1860s; it was used as the city hall until 1955 and is now a private residence. In 1859, the town's first election selected Fred Faerber as mayor and councilmembers were also elected. In March of that year the council commissioned the Chicago Secretary of the Immigrant Company to furnish a city seal with a white man and an Indian shaking hands. In 1886, Eudora's first newspaper, The Eudora News, was published, and in 1894, Charles Pilla, who also served as mayor and postmaster, helped organize the Eudora State Bank.

Eudora's first picnic was recorded in 1901. In 1927, the Central Protective Association, also known as the Cattlemens Association, reorganized from its antihorse theft roots to become the City Picnic Association. The city's annual picnic traditionally held on the third weekend of July, features carnival rides, games, parades, dancing and food.

This tradition of community celebration continues on October 5th of this year, when the city will have a genuine cake and ice cream birthday party. Eudora High School culinary arts students will be showing their talents in a cake decorating contest. Guests will have an opportunity to sample buffalo burgers. A recognition ceremony will feature community volunteer organizations. On the following day, Eudora Fest will feature arts, crafts, and food booths, along with a kid's homegrown carnival, contests, music and entertainment. The main event, however, will be the unveiling of the Eudora Statue—a historic statue of Chief Paschal Fish and his daughter, Eudora. The statue, sculpted by internationally known local sculptor Jim Brothers, will be placed in the city's historic downtown park with a historic kiosk.

Madam Speaker, I know that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in honoring the city of Eudora on its 150th anniversary, as we commemorate its rich his-

tory and outstanding way of life for all Eudorans. I am proud to represent this community and its people within the Third Congressional District of Kansas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on several measures that came before the House on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 because of illness.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 677, a resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 52) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008; "no" on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 678, a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2693) to direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a standard regulating worker exposure to diacetyl; "aye" on a motion to recommit H.J. Res. 52, a resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, to committee; "aye" on final passage of H.J. Res. 52, a motion making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008; "aye" on an amendment by Mr. WILSON of South Carolina to H.R. 2693, the Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Prevention Act; and "no" on final passage of H.R. 2693, the Popcorn Workers Lung Disease Prevention Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAINT'S MONICA AND LUKE PARISH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm and sincerity that I take this time to recognize a milestone that will be taking place in the city of Gary, IN, on Sunday, September 30, 2007. This date will mark the 25th anniversary of Saints Monica and Luke Parish, and also will mark the 90th anniversary of Saint Luke Parish and the 80th anniversary of Saint Monica Parish. This celebration, honoring the people and the history of these parishes, will take place at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary.

The official dedication of Saint Luke Parish, by then-Bishop Aldering, took place on September 30, 1917, the year my father arrived in Gary. The previous July, Saint Luke's first pastor, Father Frank Gribba was appointed, and it was through his leadership that the first auditorium, or chapel, was constructed. This modest structure was the beginning of what would eventually become Saints Monica and Luke Parish. It housed seating for 550 people, as well as four classrooms, which formed the original Saint Luke's school. An important part of the history of Saint Luke is that the school was staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame from 1917–1969. During this time, under the leadership of Father Wilfred P. Mannion, the church's current building was constructed. The new location officially opened on October 16, 1955.

Saint Monica Parish, established in Gary in 1927, was the result of the efforts of four African American Catholic women: Lillian Bolden, Louise Agnes Smith, Josefa Streeter, and Eugenia Williams. Because African Americans were not welcome in the existing Catholic churches in Gary at the time, these inspirational leaders and beacons of change petitioned then-Bishop John Francis Noll to establish a church for them. This request was granted, and Saint Monica Parish was born. In 1928, Father H. James Conway became Saint Monica's first pastor. Father Conway would serve the Catholic community in Gary for many years, eventually being named pastor at Saint Luke in 1959. During his tenure, in 1945, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament began instructing students at Saint Monica School, which focused on academic excellence and Christian service, and would become one of the premier educational facilities in the City of Gary. Another leader of Saint Monica's was Father Joseph M. Barry, an oblate from Boston who was very close to our family, as was another of the congregation's leaders, Myrtle King. Father William Martin, an assistant to Father Conway, took over as pastor at Saint Monica in 1968 and would eventually become the first pastor at Saints Monica and Luke Parish upon the parishes' merger in 1982.

Throughout the years, the parishioners of both Saint Luke and Saint Monica were a magnificent example of the Christian community in northwest Indiana. When the two churches merged in 1982 to become what is now Saints Monica and Luke Parish, their outstanding service to the community continued. Through the diligent efforts of its members, service to those in need has become one of the parish's identifying trademarks. Saints Monica and Luke operates a food pantry that serves families once a month, as well as the Saints Monica and Luke Soup Kitchen, which opened its doors in April 1993 and has served a hot meal to those in need every Friday since.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the church's current and dedicated Pastor, Father Pat Gaza, and the entire congregation at Saints Monica and Luke Parish on their 25th anniversary, as well as the preceding parishes. Throughout the years, the clergy and members of Saints Monica and Luke have dedicated themselves to providing spiritual guidance through their faith, as well as unconditional service to their community. Their constant dedication and commitment is worthy of our deepest admiration.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEAN O'CONNOR-SNYDER

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor her and pay tribute to the memory of Jean O'Connor-Snyder.

A long-time resident of Tuscaloosa, Jean devoted much of her business and civic career to her beloved alma mater, which honored her

with the establishment of 2 endowed scholarships in her name: the Jean O'Connor Leadership Scholarship and the Jean O'Connor-Snyder Endowed Scholarship.

She served as director of events and protocol and assistant director of development for the University of Alabama for over 9 years. She also served as director of community relations, employee development and special events for Bromberg Jewelers, assistant vice president of SouthTrust Bank, and executive director of the Alabama Jewelers Association. In 1993, she moved to Montgomery to be the executive assistant to the First Lady, mansion administrator, and chief of protocol for the Alabama Governor's office. In 1995, she returned to her private consulting business where she specialized in events management, public relations, and professional development training.

Jean was a president of the Tuscaloosa chapter of the University of Alabama National Alumni Association, and the National Alumni Association awarded her with the Distinguished Alumna Award in 1997. She was the volunteer coordinator with the University of Alabama Visual Program and former president of the Life Learning Initiative at Shelton State Community College. She served as the consultant who coordinated the first two Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame Galas for Shelton State Community College.

Her dedication did not stop there. Jean served as a deacon and Stephen Minister at First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa, president of Tuscaloosa International Friends, board member to Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center, and the Chi Omega/House Corporation. She was a member of Rotary International Tuscaloosa Chapter, 2007 Leadership Scholarship Capstone Council, and received the Alabama Alumni Association's Award of Achievement.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout Alabama. Jean will be missed by her family—her 6 children, Frances O'Connor Morgan, William F. O'Connor, Jr., John Talty O'Connor, Julia Bradford O'Connor, Michael Brady O'Connor, and Patrick Shepherd O'Connor; her stepdaughter, Sharon Pilsch; nine grandchildren, Rosalyn Morgan Devine, Katherine Elizabeth O'Connor Heath, Anna Bradford O'Connor Norris, John Franklin Morgan III, Elizabeth Brady Morgan, Kelsey Cooper O'Connor, Kerri Cathleen O'Connor, Rosalind Brady O'Connor, and Victor Bradford O'Connor; 2 step-grandchildren, Erin Pilsch and Turner Pilsch; and several great-grandchildren—as well as the many countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

CALLING ON THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS TO DEFEND EMPLOYERS' RIGHT TO EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I introduced a resolution calling on Governor Rod Blagojevich to stop the state's upcoming prohibition on people from Illinois from using the

federal government's E-Verify web site to confirm immigration status for job applicants. The system is used in other states to quickly verify that new employees comply with U.S. law. Earlier this week, the Department of Justice, on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, brought suit in federal court to strike down the Blagojevich prohibition.

The E-Verify system was created as part of the "Basic Pilot Program" authorized by Congress in 1996 to help employers easily check immigration status for job applicants. The program was offered to the entire country in 2001 by a unanimous vote of the House. Governor Blagojevich was a member of the House in 2001 during the time of that unanimous vote.

The E-Verify system provides employers access to a web site to check on the legal or illegal status of a job applicant, usually within one day. The system approves over 91 percent of such applications. If an applicant disagrees with an E-Verify opinion, he can contest the "Tentative Non-Confirmation" within one week at a Social Security or Department of Homeland Security office. Federal law prohibits an employer from taking action against an employee until this dispute is resolved.

If an employee is officially "Non-Confirmed", the employer can still offer a job after adjusting the immigration status of the applicant or notifying the Department of Homeland Security. Over 22,000 American employers use the E-Verify system that has processed almost three million requests. More than 800 employers join this system each week.

While the federal government offered Americans the right to check on the immigration status of job applicants using the E-Verify system, this right will be denied to the people of Illinois by this new state law. Signed by the Governor in August, the Illinois law will deny all Illinois employers the right to use the federal E-Verify system after January 1. The Illinois law only allows access to E-Verify at some future date after state officials finds the system is 99 percent accurate. No other state denies the rights of its employers to use this federal program. Furthermore, the Illinois law clearly violates the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and supporting the right of employers to verify the immigration status of prospective employees.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Yvette Cade is an inspiring survivor of domestic violence. The justice system failed her. In 2005, Yvette sought protection from her estranged husband. Already a victim of domestic violence, Yvette had a restraining order against her estranged husband, but it was set to expire. Yvette turned to the courts for help. She personally asked District Judge Richard Palumbo to extend the restraining order. Judge Palumbo said no; he refused to extend the order. Judge Palumbo went so far as to make

fun of Yvette for seeking a protective order. When Yvette, who represented herself without a lawyer, told Palumbo that she wanted "an immediate, absolute divorce," Judge Palumbo replied, "I'd like to be six-foot-five, but that's not what we do here." Judge Palumbo likened other domestic violence victims to buses that come along every 10 minutes. Judge Palumbo then dismissed Yvette's assault case against her estranged husband. Two weeks later, Yvette's fears of further abuse were realized when her estranged husband walked into her workplace, doused her with gasoline, struck a match, and set her on fire.

Yvette Cade survived the third-degree burns across sixty-percent of her body. She underwent several surgeries and still has more surgeries in her future. As a victim, survivor, and advocate, Yvette Cade is an inspiring voice for all domestic violence victims. She is a reminder of the staggering statistics on domestic violence victims in America and the injustices that victims face on an all too-often basis.

Yvette Cade triumphed over tragedy. To recognize her remarkable spirit and advocacy work on behalf of other victims, the Victims' Rights Caucus awarded Yvette the Eva Murillo "Unsung Hero" Award in April.

Domestic violence victims need a voice so that they too can become survivors. That is why I sponsored H. Res. 590 to declare October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is appropriate that this House pass this legislation unanimously.

With more awareness of domestic violence, more action can be taken. We owe it to good people like Yvette Cade. And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 25, 2007, I was not present for votes as I was in Little Rock, Arkansas attending the 50th Anniversary commemorating the integration of Little Rock Central High School by the Little Rock Nine.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 895, H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 896, H. Res. 584, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 897, H. Con. Res. 210, Supporting the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 898, H. Res. 663, Supporting the goals and ideals of Veterans of Foreign Wars Day, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 899, H. Res. 548, Expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 900, H. Res. 642, Expressing sympathy and support

for the people and governments of the countries of Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico which have suffered from Hurricanes Felix, Dean, and Henriette and whose complete economic and fatality toll are still unknown, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 901, H. Res. 557, Strongly condemning the United Nations Human Rights Council for ignoring severe human rights abuses in various countries, while choosing to unfairly target Israel by including it as the only country permanently placed on the Council's agenda, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 902, H. Res. 675, Table Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 903, H. Res. 675, on the Previous Question on providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 976, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 904, H. Res. 675, on agreeing to the resolution, Providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to H.R. 976, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes, I would have voted "Aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 905, H. Res. 95, Campus Fire Safety Month, I would have voted "Aye."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Representative ROSKAM for introducing H. Res. 605, in support of Gold Star Mothers. Gold Star Mothers is a tremendous organization that honors our nation's brave sons and daughters in the Armed Services that have made the ultimate sacrifice. Gold Star Mother's outreach and volunteer efforts help to bring comfort and solace to family members and loved ones during their time of need. My stepson Doug and his wife Lindsay continue to serve overseas in the Marines so I greatly appreciate the support and devotion the Gold Star Mothers have for our Armed Forces and Veterans. I am also proud to have Georgianna C. Krell, a past and future National President of Gold Star Mothers from my Congressional District. Georgianna's son PFC Bruce Carter was killed defending our nation on August 7th 1969 in Vietnam. Private Carter was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in battle. It is with great pleasure that I have been working with Georgianna to have our local VA hospital in Miami renamed after her son and I look forward to my continued relationship with Georgianna and Gold Star Mothers to honor our nation's heroes.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE RICHARD S. ARNOLD

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan and a fine American, Judge Richard S. Arnold. I'm proud to recognize Judge Arnold in the United States Congress for his years of service as a legal scholar. His carefully reasoned and articulate opinions set new standards in the legal profession. Although Judge Arnold rose to one of the highest levels of his profession, he always maintained a sense of grace and humility that was admired by all.

Judge Arnold received his bachelor's degree summa cum laude from Yale and later graduated magna cum laude and first in his class from Harvard Law School. In addition to serving as a clerk to Justice William Brennan at the U.S. Supreme Court, Arnold served as a legislative assistant to Senator Dale Bumpers of Arkansas and was eventually appointed Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. He was appointed to the Eighth Circuit in 1980 and finally Chief Judge on January 8, 1992 where he served until his untimely death.

According to his colleagues, Judge Arnold's intellect was unmatched and his compassion for others is a trait that is rarely found today. He was respected for his continual search for truth and justice that he applied to each of his opinions, which are often used today as models for judging. He worked tirelessly to improve the judiciary and supported efforts to help other judges across the nation improve their skills and in turn the legal profession.

Judge Richard Arnold has been recognized by the dedication of the United States Courthouse in Little Rock, AK where his life and his work can continue to be remembered. He was a fine Arkansan and a fine American and will be greatly missed by all.

IN MEMORY OF A GOOD AND DECENT MAN, MAYER MITCHELL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to announce to the House that a friend to many in this chamber—and throughout this city—Mayer Mitchell of Mobile—passed away yesterday morning at home with his family by his side.

In recent weeks, it became apparent that Mayer was involved in a battle unlike any he had ever faced. And yet, knowing that Mayer had that 'never-say-quit' spirit, it would not have surprised any of us had he been able to scale just one more mountain along life's journey.

Sadly, however, that was simply not meant to be, and Mayer's passing leaves a void that will be felt throughout our community, state and nation.

No tribute to Mayer could begin without offering our heartfelt sympathies to his wonderful family. Above all else, Mayer was truly a

family man . . . he loved his family and included them in almost all that he did and all for which he stood.

To his loving wife of 54 years, Arlene, their four children, Richard, Melinda, Joy and Lisa, their eight grandchildren, and to his brother, Abe, the people of south Alabama offer our deepest sympathies to you over your loss. At the same time, we offer our profound gratitude to you for sharing your wonderful husband, father, grandfather and brother with all of us.

Mayer Mitchell had a truly wonderful and amazing life, a life filled with exemplary philanthropic service that is unrivaled in the city of Mobile and perhaps the state of Alabama, but also, in a very real way, he was a man who enriched the lives of all who came in contact with him over the years.

Mayer, known to his close friends and family as "Bubba," was truly many things to many people.

As a businessman, Mayer was the consummate professional, always driven by a desire to be successful in whatever opportunity was presented. He often defined success as being centered on respect, trust and mutual understanding.

He was motivated by a personal philosophy of "the harder you work, the luckier you get," and that's just what Mayer did. Along with his brother Abe, they founded The Mitchell Company, a residential and commercial real estate development firm in 1958. Their company built single family homes and apartments as well as shopping centers. Not surprisingly, the firm grew rapidly and soon became one of the largest in the southeast.

Mayer and Abe sold their interest in the company in 1986 at which time the firm was responsible for 25,000 single family homes, 20,000 apartments and 175 shopping centers. Even today, The Mitchell Company remains the largest private firm in Mobile and among the top 40 in the state of Alabama. After selling the family business, Mayer spent the second half of his business life managing his investments through his company, MBI, L.L.C. Rather than retire at the young age of 53 simply to live on his successes, Mayer put his heart and soul in support of his family, his faith and his community. He followed the example set by his parents' commitment to philanthropy explained by one of his favorite Jewish proverbs, "Give when you're living, and it's gold. When you give when you're dead, it's lead."

A lifelong proponent of education, Mayer served more than 32 years on the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees, including a term as chairman. He was particularly supportive of USA's medical, business and sports programs, but to say his giving touched every aspect of the University would be a considerable understatement.

At the time of his death, Mayer and his family had given more than \$36 million to the University of South Alabama. As a result of his leadership, several key landmarks on campus today proudly bear the Mitchell name, including USA's Mitchell College of Business and the Mitchell Center sports arena, the finest facility of its kind in the state of Alabama.

Mayer and Abe also gave generously to create the University's business learning resource center, named in honor of their parents, Joseph and Rebecca Mitchell.

But as committed to education as he was, Mayer was also a tireless advocate for quality

health care and, not surprisingly, he left his indelible mark in this arena as well.

Madam Speaker, at the age of 36, Mayer was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. After seeking successful experimental cancer treatments in New York, Mayer vowed that Mobile would one day have its own world-class cancer center.

And today, because of Mayer's vision and generosity—and that of the entire Mitchell family—the University of South Alabama, in alliance with the Mobile Infirmary Medical Center, is now home to a state-of-the-art cancer research institute, appropriately named the Mitchell Cancer Institute.

All in all, the Mitchell family holds the distinction of having given more to a single public university than any other family in the history of the state of Alabama.

Without a doubt, Mayer's philanthropy and leadership was legendary and recognized around the country and across the globe. When Mayer's name was on an invitation, a project or a cause, you knew with it came his own personal "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval." And if Mayer was on your side, you never, ever had to go back to him and ask if he was truly committed. Mayer's word was golden.

Mayer Mitchell was awarded the University of South Alabama National Alumni Associations' Distinguished Service Award in 2006. Other honors included: Outstanding Young Men of America; Jewish Welfare Fund Man of the Year; Prichard Honorary Citizen of the Year; Mobile County Realtor of the Year; and high honors from the Boy's Club of Mobile, Bishop State Community College; University of Rochester, New Orleans Chapter of Hadasah, Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind, Mobile Kiwanis Club and the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. In 2006, The University of Alabama inducted Mayer into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame.

Clearly, Mayer's involvement was not just at the local and state level, but at the national level as well. He was a longtime political activist and a passionate supporter for Israel. He served on the national board of directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, for over two decades, serving as president of the board from 1990–1992 and as chairman of the board from 1992–1996. He devoted much time to Camp Ramah Darom, a summer camp for Jewish youth in northeast Georgia, and Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, which awarded him an honorary doctorate.

A graduate from Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Finance in 1953, Mayer also served in the Army as a first lieutenant in the Korean War, where he earned a commendation ribbon with medal pendant for meritorious service.

Madam Speaker, Psalms 24:2 calls to question, "Who will ascend the mountain of the Lord and who will stand in his place of sanctity? One with clean hands and a pure heart."

Let there be no doubt, Mayer Mitchell's manner and goodness truly lived up to that expectation. And for all who truly knew Mayer—and appreciated him for all he was and all he did—we can all take some comfort in knowing that in life, Mayer definitely made a difference. Even in death, his legacy will last for generations.

More than 60 years ago, a young girl wrote a diary that opened the world's eyes to the

horrors of evil and hatred. Even today, Anne Frank remains an inspiration for her simple eloquence and powerful choice of words.

One of my favorite Anne Frank quotes seems to be a fitting epithet for my dear friend, Mayer. She wrote, "How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Madam Speaker, Mayer Mitchell did just that. He waited for no one to tell him what needed to be done; he simply went out, in his own special way, and sewed seeds of hope one good deed at a time.

While it is true that the good works of Mayer Mitchell could fill an entire volume in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, on this day when his family and friends mourn his death, I simply ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a good and decent man, Mayer Mitchell. May he rest in peace.

TRIBUTE TO MINNIE VAUTRIN,
"AMERICAN GODDESS OF MERCY"

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Minnie Vautrin, an American woman and missionary whose heroism changed the course of history during World War II.

Japan's violent occupation of then-capital Nanking, China, historically known as the Rape of Nanking, claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent Chinese men, women and children and left its mark on history as one of the most brutal massacres and crimes against humanity of the 20th Century. An estimated 300,000 Chinese civilians were killed, and an estimated 20,000 women were raped, with some estimates as high as 80,000.

Minnie Vautrin, a missionary who worked at a women's college in Nanking, courageously stood against the Japanese Imperial Army. A native of Illinois, she was one of the few Americans in the region when the Japanese army invaded Nanking.

By using the American flag and proclamations issued by the American Embassy in China maintaining the college as a sanctuary, Minnie helped repel incursions into the college, where thousands of women and children sought protection from the Japanese army. She often risked her own life to defend the lives of thousands of Chinese civilians.

Her devotion during this horrific event earned her the nickname "American Goddess of Mercy" among the people of Nanking, where she is fondly remembered. Her heroic actions and unparalleled efforts to save lives deserve to be recognized. Sadly, her story is relatively unknown.

Today, on the 121st anniversary of her birth, I would like to honor Ms. Vautrin for her sacrifice, courage, humanity, and commitment to peace and justice during the violent Rape of Nanking. Minnie Vautrin's story defines patriotism and heroism in the midst of war.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining me in remembering this phenomenal yet unsung heroine. To the thousands of innocent men, women and children whose lives were spared because of Minnie Vautrin's bold courage, she will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF KATHERINE BROWN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Katherine Brown for her service to Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District while working in my Washington, D.C., office.

When Katie came to Capitol Hill from Galatin, Tennessee, earlier this year, she quickly proved to be an able researcher, a strong writer and a hard worker. While she has been with the office only a short time, her diligence and persistence have helped me do my job better.

But love and law school are now calling her home. Today is her last day in the office as Katie is moving back to Middle Tennessee to be with her fiancé, Taylor, while she prepares for law school.

My staff and I are sad to see her leave, but we share her excitement for this new chapter in her life. Katie, I thank you for all your help, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO NABVETS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS) and offer my salutation to those members attending their Regional Convention in Denver Colorado this November. NABVETS has representatives in several states across the western United States, including my home state of Colorado. It is with the utmost sincerity that I wish this gathering success in discerning avenues to uphold and meet their organizational mission.

Since its founding in 1969, NABVETS has made great strides in community development and advocacy by providing a myriad of services including empowerment of low-income and minority veterans and historical perseverance.

NABVETS has provided support to Colorado communities over the years, and I am proud to support its continued efforts to assist Colorado's veterans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking them for their efforts, and conveying my best wishes for the convention.

CONGRATULATING MR. GRANT
SIMPSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Grant Simpson, a Hidden Lakes Elementary School teacher in Keller, Texas, for being named Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Simpson was selected from twenty finalists by an eleven member panel of educators, principals and state officials. This is the second consecutive year that a Keller teacher has been recognized.

Mr. Simpson turns his fourth-grade classroom into a comfortable learning environment for his students. He tries to attend numerous student activities such as recitals and football games, and it is not uncommon to see him eating lunch with his students.

Mr. Simpson will receive \$5,000 and a technology package worth \$15,000 for his award. He will be honored at a luncheon November 3, 2007, in Austin, Texas.

I would like to join Mr. Grant Simpson's family and friends in congratulating him on receiving this remarkable award. It is an honor to have such a prestigious teacher in the 26th district of Texas.

CONGRATULATING ALEXIS L.
TAYLOR

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Miss Alexis L. Taylor of Keller High School in Keller, Texas, for being chosen as a semifinalist in the 44th Annual National Achievement Scholarship Program. It is an honor to have such a qualified student in the 26th District of Texas.

The National Achievement Scholarship Program began in 1964 as a way to provide

scholarships to promising black students. Since 1964, almost 28,000 students have been provided with scholarships totaling more than \$88 million.

Miss Taylor was one of 114 semifinalists from the State of Texas. She was chosen based on her Preliminary SAT scores. Finalists will be chosen based on abilities, achievements, and potential for success. The scholarship winners will be announced in April of 2008.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Miss Alexis L. Taylor and her family for her academic achievements at Keller High School. Her dedication and commitment to her education will lead her to great things. I wish her the best of luck with the remainder of the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

BOROUGH OF MOHNTON IN BERKS
COUNTY 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Borough of Mohnton in Berks County, Pennsylvania which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. Like many municipalities in the 6th District, the Borough of Mohnton has a rich and proud history that is the foundation for the strength and sense of community that its residents share today.

Mohnton officially became a borough in 1907 when it separated from Cumru Town-

ship. The community was previously known as Mohn's Store, or Mohnsville, in honor of founder Samuel K. Mohn, who opened a store and established a post office in 1857. Within the first year of the Borough's existence, the Mohnton Fire Co. No. 1 was organized, which consisted of a hand-drawn hose cart that was its only means of fighting fires. In 1909, the first Borough's high school graduating class had just four students. Today, the Borough is a part of the Governor Mifflin School District, which proudly boasts over 1400 students in high school alone. Over the years, the Borough has grown into a thriving community that epitomizes good neighbors and civic-mindedness.

As a part of the festivities, the Borough has brought back another proud tradition that dates back a half-century. Back in the 1950s, Mohnton was the local hub of soap-box racing, with fans watching the races along Walnut Street. This tradition was rekindled by the Mohnton Lions Club this past summer and it was a great event for young and old alike.

This weekend's celebrations will include a Centennial Parade around the Northridge section of the community, followed by string bands, fireworks and other great musical performances.

I congratulate Mayor Richard Trostle and all of the other dedicated organizing members and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this celebration so successful. I know all my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Borough of Mohnton and all its residents for 100 years of family, faith and tradition and we wish them another 100 years of community energy, vitality and success.